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W e e k l y

Vol. 6 No. 16 Monday 7th June 2010

FULL WORLD CUP
TV GUIDE

GROUP BY GROUP
PREVIEW



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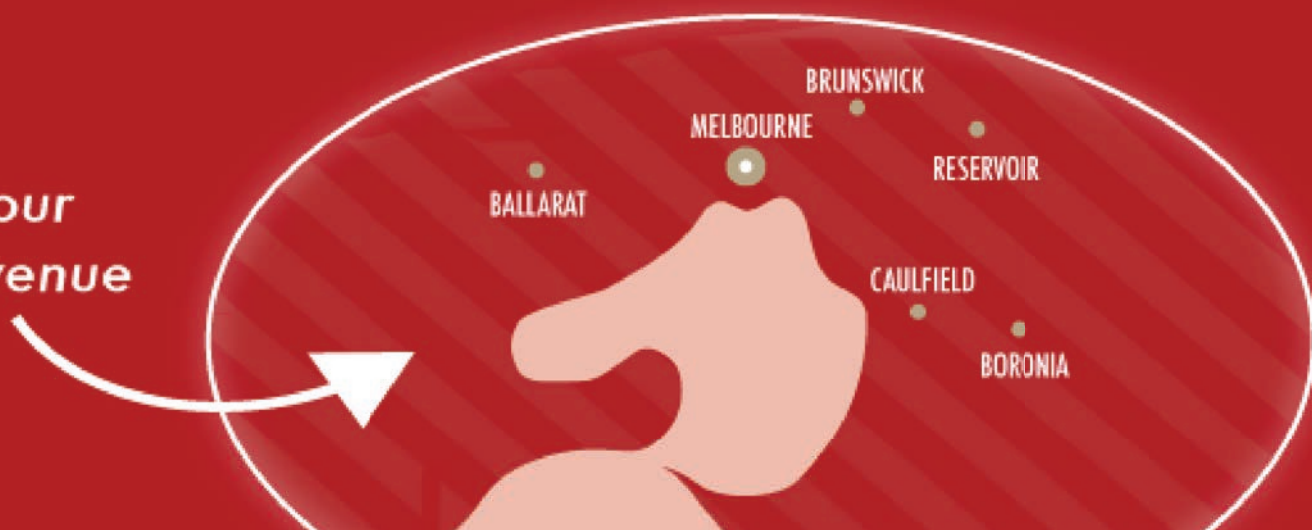
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this week's line-up

World Cup Previews	3
Euro Scene	5
Blast From The Past	8
Tsigan	9
London Calling	12
NSW	19
Tasmania	22
Sth Aust	23
West Aust	24
FFV Results	32
V-League	33
VPL	34



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News Room: 03 9551 7538
Advertising: 03 9551 7538

Email: news@goalweekly.com
Letters: mailbag@goalweekly.com
Web: www.goalweekly.com

Editor: Costa Koutropoulos
Art Director: Carlos Ibarra
Design: Ivan Andreevski

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Aritro Adebini, Nat Adamopoulos, Mark Boric, Bruce Darnell, Lee Galiardi, Russ Gibbs, Andrew Fisher, Roy Hay, Markian Jaworsky, George Katsamboukas, Eddie Krncevic, Jarrod Ellis, Francis Fields, John Fotinos, Matt Galea, Russ Gibbs, Bart Hulley, Adam Hussein, Peter Katholos, Jacob Kagi, John Kyrou, Sebastian Kipman, George Kouroumalis, Michael Lilikakis, Josip Loncaric, Craig MacKenzie, Alex Milic, Ashley Morrison, Adam North, Jeremy O'Neil, Teo Pellizzeri, Kieran Pender, Walter Pless, Tony Persoglia, Leroy Robinson, Julius Ross, Roger Sleeman, Mike Salter, Luke Sheehan, Con Stamocostas, George Stogiannou, Reuben Schembri, Lachlan Taylor, Elias Simopoulos, Michal Skrodsky, Addy Wetzler, Bruno Zovko.

Photographers

Adam Butler, Therese Duffy, Daniel Flis, Dean Grant, Carlos Furtado, Geoff Jones, Peter Kakalias, Darryl Kennedy, Paul Lau, Lee McCormick, Mark McGeady, Brett McDonald, Anita Milas, Peter Psarros, John Punshon, Brett Robson, Steve Starek, George Stogiannou.

World Cup beats to African rhythm

By Alex Luttrell

The world's biggest football party, the 2010 FIFA World Cup has hit fever pitch this week in South Africa with friendly matches, galore, squad selections being finalised, favourites being predicted and of course, with the Opening Ceremony commencing this Friday at Soccer City in Johannesburg the world is watching intently.

Thirty-two qualifying teams, some of which are the world's best football nations, have been divided by FIFA into eight groups and will play 64 all important matches, with the all important Final to be held on July 11th in Johannesburg which will decide who will be the best football team in the world.

The first World Cup tournament was played in Uruguay in 1930 in which the host nation defeated Argentina 4-2 in Montevideo and was awarded the Jules Rimet Trophy, named in honour of the then FIFA President.

After Brazil won the trophy for the third time in 1970, the South American nation was allowed to keep the trophy

in perpetuity, prompting the creation of the current FIFA World Cup trophy. After the Jules Rimet trophy was stolen in 1983 from Brazil football headquarters, the current trophy of today was ushered in for the 1974 tournament and was first lifted by West Germany.

Today, the trophy sits at its home, the Italian headquarters as the 2006 defending champions. There have been 18 official World Cup finals since 1930 of which Brazil has been the most successful, winning five to the present day.

This year, the Azzurri will seek to maintain the trophy, but the top favourite for 2010 glory is Spain, followed closely by 2002 winners Brazil, then Argentina and England. The Spanish team has never had the glory of lifting either of the trophies, despite hosting the 1982 finals.

The Euro 2008 champions Spain will be looking to Fernando Torres and David Villa to spear head from the front in order to take the trophy to Madrid for the first time in the nation's history.

Coach, Vicente del Bosque will look to top Group H with ease, playing Switzerland first on June 17th, who

is ranked 24 in the world, followed by Honduras and Chile as the remaining opposition.

Next in line favourites, South American powerhouses Brazil will head into this year's World Cup finals hoping to add a sixth title to their already vast trophy cabinet, despite the notable omissions of strikers Alexandre Pato and Ronaldinho for Nilmar and Grafite produced some criticism on Coach, Dunga.

However, the number one ranked team in the world will also look to top the group with their experienced campaigning efforts, despite drawing third-ranked Portugal as well as Korea DPR, which they encounter first on June 15th, and the Ivory Coast, who may be without Chelsea and English leading goal scorer Didier Drogba due to an elbow injury.

For the Brazil there are no serious injury issues as they head into the 19th World Cup Finals, with Real Madrid midfielder Kaka assuring Dunga that he is in great condition after overcoming a groin injury he sustained towards the end of the season. Brazil defeated

Zimbabwe 3-0 on Wednesday and has one friendly remaining against Tanzania to build further confidence for the campaign.

For Spain there may be some concern surrounding the fitness of Liverpool superstar Fernando Torres and Arsenal midfielder Cesc Fabregas. Torres did not appear for Spain in their two friendly wins against Korea Republic (1-0) and Saudi Arabia (3-2) during the week. Del Brosque is confident that he will play against their remaining friendly against Poland on Tuesday in order to prove his fitness.

Fabregas is also of concern for Spain, coming off after an hour for Xavi against the Korean Republic. It was his first run since an ongoing fibula injury he sustained in March, but he remains confident to be fit for Spain's first game against Switzerland.

With only four friendly matches remaining, the biggest sporting celebration of 2010 is about to begin everyone will be watching South Africa in excitement, anticipation and joy. It is now time to see the world game in all its glory, let the party begin.

SBS World Cup TV Guide

Opening Ceremony
Fri 11-Jun 22:00 LIVE
FIFA Cup World Opening Ceremony

Group Matches
1 - Sat 11-Jun 23:00 LIVE
South Africa v Mexico
2 - Sat 12-Jun 04:00 LIVE
Uruguay v France
3 - Sat 12-Jun 21:00 LIVE
Korea Republic v Greece
4 - Sat 12-Jun 23:30 LIVE
Argentina v Nigeria
5 - Sun 13-Jun 04:00 LIVE
England v USA
6 - Sun 13-Jun 21:00 LIVE
Algeria v Slovenia
7 - Sun 13-Jun 23:30 LIVE
Serbia v Ghana
8 - Mon 14-Jun 04:00 LIVE
Germany v Australia
9 - Mon 14-Jun 21:00 LIVE
Netherlands v Denmark
10 - Mon 14-Jun 23:30 LIVE
Japan v Cameroon
11 - Tues 15-Jun 04:00 LIVE
Italy v Paraguay
12 - Tues 15-Jun 21:00 LIVE
New Zealand v Slovakia
13 - Tues 15-Jun 23:30 LIVE
Cote d'Ivoire v Portugal
14 - Wed 16-Jun 04:00 LIVE
Brazil v Korea DPR
15 - Wed 16-Jun 21:00 LIVE
Honduras v Chile
16 - Wed 16-Jun 23:30 LIVE
Spain v Switzerland
17 - Thurs 17-Jun 04:00 LIVE
South Africa v Uruguay
18 - Thurs 17-Jun 21:00 LIVE
Argentina v Korea Republic
19 - Thurs 17-Jun 23:30 LIVE
Greece v Nigeria
20 - Fri 18-Jun 04:00 LIVE
France v Mexico

21 - Fri 18-Jun 21:00 LIVE
Germany v Serbia
22 - Fri 18-Jun 23:30 LIVE
Slovenia v USA
23 - Sat 19-Jun 04:00 LIVE
England v Algeria
24 - Sat 19-Jun 21:00 LIVE
Netherlands v Japan
25 - Sat 19-Jun 23:30 LIVE
Ghana v Australia
26 - Sun 20-Jun 04:00 LIVE
Cameroon v Denmark
27 - Sun 20-Jun 21:00 LIVE
Slovakia v Paraguay
28 - Sun 20-Jun 23:30 LIVE
Italy v New Zealand
29 - Mon 21-Jun 04:00 LIVE
Brazil v Cote d'Ivoire
30 - Mon 21-Jun 21:00 LIVE
Portugal v Korea DPR
31 - Mon 21-Jun 23:30 LIVE
Chile v Switzerland
32 - Tues 22-Jun 04:00 LIVE
Spain v Honduras
33 - Tues 22-Jun 23:30 LIVE
Mexico v Uruguay
34 - Wed 23-Jun 02:00 Delayed
France v South Africa
35 - Wed 23-Jun 04:00 LIVE
Greece v Argentina
36 - Wed 23-Jun 06:30 Delayed
Nigeria v Korea Republic
37 - Wed 23-Jun 23:30 LIVE
Slovenia v England
38 - Thurs 24-Jun 02:00 Delayed
USA v Algeria
39 - Thurs 24-Jun 04:00 LIVE
Australia v Serbia
40 - Thurs 24-Jun 06:30 Delayed
Ghana v Germany
41 - Thurs 24-Jun 23:30 LIVE
Slovakia v Italy
42 - Fri 25-Jun 02:00 Delayed
Paraguay v New Zealand
43 - Fri 25-Jun 04:00 LIVE

Cameroon v Netherlands
44 - Fri 25-Jun 06:30 Delayed
Denmark v Japan
45 - Fri 25-Jun 23:30 LIVE
Portugal v Brazil
46 - Sat 26-Jun 02:00 Delayed
Korea DPR v Cote d'Ivoire
47 - Sat 26-Jun 04:00 LIVE
Chile v Spain
48 - Sat 26-Jun 06:30 Delayed
Switzerland v Honduras

Round of 16
49 - Sat 26-Jun 23:30 LIVE 1A v 2B
50 - Sun 27-Jun 04:00 LIVE 1C v 2D
51 - Sun 27-Jun 23:30 LIVE 1D v 2C
52 - Mon 28-Jun 04:00 LIVE 1B v 2A
53 - Mon 28-Jun 23:30 LIVE 1E v 2F
54 - Tues 29-Jun 04:00 LIVE 1G v 2H
55 - Tues 29-Jun 23:30 LIVE 1F v 2E
56 - Wed 30-Jun 04:00 LIVE 1H v 2G

Quarter Finals
57 - Fri 02-Jul 23:30 LIVE 53 v 54
58 - Sat 03-Jul 04:00 LIVE 49 v 50
59 - Sat 03-Jul 23:30 LIVE 52 v 51
60 - Sun 04-Jul 04:00 LIVE 55 v 56

Semi Finals
61 - Wed 07-Jul 04:00 LIVE 58 v 57
62 - Thurs 08-Jul 04:00 LIVE 59 v 60

3rd & 4th Place Play-Off
63 - Sun 11-Jul 04:00 LIVE
61 (Losers) v 62 (Losers)

World Cup Final
64 - Mon 12-Jul 03:30 LIVE
61 v 62



The Odds

Spain	5.00
Brazil	5.50
England	7.00
Argentina	8.00
Holland	11.00
Italy	15.00
Germany	15.00
France	19.00
Portugal	26.00
Ivory Coast	41.00
Serbia	51.00
Chile	71.00
Mexico	81.00
Paraguay	81.00
USA	81.00
Cameroon	101.00
Ghana	101.00
Australia	101.00
Uruguay	101.00
Denmark	126.00
Nigeria	126.00
South Africa	151.00
Switzerland	201.00
Greece	201.00
Slovakia	226.00
South Korea	251.00
Japan	301.00
Slovenia	301.00
Algeria	601.00
Honduras	1,001.00
New Zealand	1,501.00
North Korea	2,001.00

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Bafana Bafana holds high hopes

By Julius Ross

SOUTH AFRICA
All eyes in Group A are focussed intensely on the hosts who have had a tumultuous 12 months leading up to the tournament and expectations to turn the team's fortunes around in the Rainbow Nation are high.

No host country has failed to advance from the first round in the history of the World Cup, a statistic which adds to the intense pressure on Bafana Bafana, who have been tipped for an early exit.

Following their creditable third-place finish in the Confederations Cup in 2009, South Africa's results spiralled downhill during the latter period of last year, leading to the sacking of coach Joel Santana and scrutiny from all quarters.

But since former Brazilian manager Carlos Alberto Parreira was recalled, Bafana Bafana's fortunes have slowly improved in the lead up to the world's biggest sporting spectacle.

Parrerria's men wrapped up their preparations for the tournament with an impressive display which saw them defeat Denmark 1-0 on Saturday, extending their unbeaten run into the finals to 14 games.

Evidently, support has continued to rise exponentially with the nation well and truly gripped by World Cup fever.

With warm-up match momentum and the passionate locals – who are likely to act as the team's 12th man with their noisy vuvuzelas – South Africa may well survive the embarrassment of becoming the first host nation to exit in the Group stage.

MEXICO

Mexico, like South Africa, has experienced a turbulent couple of years leading up to the 2010 finals.

Three coaches have been sacked, while more than 60 different players have represented the Tricolores in the last three years.

But side's poor run of form under former coach Sven Goran-Erikson has been steadied by the appointment of Javier Aguirre who has created a team comprising of a balanced mix of youth and experience which has achieved respectable results in qualifying.

Aguirre's influence saw the Mexicans leap from fifth to second place in the six-team CONCACAF second-round qualifying zone to finish behind rivals United States with five wins, one draw and just one defeat.

Mexico will contest their 14th and fifth consecutive Finals in South Africa and the team's biggest challenge is to progress past the Round of 16 – a feat they have failed to achieve on the last four occasions.

The side will first have to negotiate tough Group A opponents, with the Cup's opening match against the host nation far from an easy beginning.

In order to progress, Mexico will have to employ their trademark defensive tactics, sitting 10 men behind the ball and relying on swift counter-attacking football to unlock the opposition, while breaking down opponents early.

Prediction: Last

FRANCE

The French made history qualifying for South Africa, with the country never pre-

viously qualifying for the Finals on four consecutive occasions.

The way in which they qualified is also etched in the history books, but it is not a glamorous story.

After an average qualifying campaign which saw Les Blues finish second in Group Seven of UEFA qualifying, France snatched a spot in 2010 Finals via Thierry Henry's infamous handball.

With an unpopular coach in the form of Raymond Domenech, despite the fact he remains as France's longest-serving national coach in Les Blues' history, confidence in the manager and his ability to conduct his players is low.

But writing France off would be a big mistake.

They have the personnel in Franck Ribery, Karim Benzema, Henry, Florent Malouda and William Gallas to cruise through this group and beyond, but the key is to whether the players will be able to click.

Prediction: First

URUGUAY

Uruguay has made just two appearances in the last five World Cup Finals and La Celeste's glory years are becoming a fading memory.

The South American side were the final team to qualify for the 2010 Finals after defeat in their final CONMEBOL qualifier against Argentina left them fifth in the qualifying group, forcing them into a play-off with fourth-placed CONCACAF team Costa Rica.

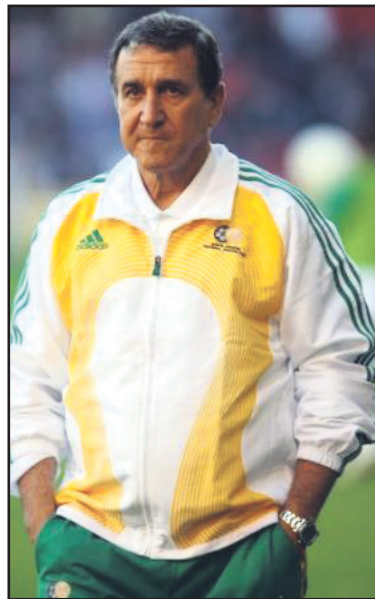
Uruguay emerged 2-1 winners on aggregate, but it signalled the side's qualification was patchy and inconsistent.

Hopes of progress will lie on goal scoring - something Uruguay should not

have to worry about; the side scored 28 goals in qualifying – the third-highest tally behind Brazil and Chile – and the partnership of Diego Forlan and Luis Suarez is deadly.

But inconsistency may prove to be Uruguay's biggest weakness in this group which will be tightly contested.

PREDICTION: 1. France 2. South Africa 3. Mexico 4. Uruguay.



Bafana Bafana coach, Carlos Alberto Parreira carries the weight of the host nation's expectations on his shoulders.

To Win Group

France 2.00
Mexico 4.00
Uruguay 4.50
South Africa 6.50



Fast Facts

SOUTH AFRICA
Nickname(s): Bafana Bafana (The Boys)
Association: South African Football Association
Confederation: CAF (Africa)
Head coach: Carlos Alberto Parreira
Captain: Aaron Mokoena
Appearance in Finals: 3
Best Performance: Group Stage (1998, 2002)
FIFA ranking: 83

FRANCE
Association: Fédération Française de Football
Confederation: UEFA (Europe)
Head coach: Raymond Domenech
Asst coach: Alain Boghossian, Pierre Mankowski
Appearance in Finals: 13
Best Performance: Winners (1998)
Home stadium: Stade de France
FIFA ranking: 10

MEXICO
Nickname(s): "El Tri" (the three-colored)
Association: FEMEXFUT (Federación Mexicana de Fútbol Asociación)
Confederation: CONCACAF
Head coach: Javier Aguirre
Asst coach: Mario Carrillo, Manuel Vidrio
Appearance in Finals: 14
Best Performance: Quarter Final (1970, 1986)
Home stadium: Estadio Azteca
FIFA ranking: 17

URUGUAY
Association: Asociación Uruguaya de Fútbol
Confederation: CONMEBOL (South America)
Head coach: Oscar Tabarez
Captain: Diego Lugano
Appearance in Finals: 3
Best Performance: Winners (1930, 1950)
Home stadium: Estadio Centenario
FIFA ranking: 16

No crying for Argentina this time

By Matt Galea

Few would have been more satisfied with the World Cup Group Stage draw than Diego Maradona. The man who inspired the South American nation to World Cup glory in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico will look to repeat the feat in South Africa, this time, as a manager. A man who has his fair share of critics, Maradona will have nowhere to hide should his immensely talented side fail to qualify from what looks a rather straight forward group.

Despite the somewhat unusual inclusion of players like Jonas Gutierrez, who played in the Championship with Newcastle this season, and the exclusion of big names including recent Champions League winners Esteban Cambiasso and Javier Zannetti, Maradona still boasts some of the world's greatest players. The likes of Sergio "Kun" Aguero, Carlos Tevez, Gonzalo Higuain, Diego Milito and of course Lionel Messi, offers Argentina a plethora of attacking options. Fitting all these players into one line up however, is a completely different story, a task made all the more difficult by Maradona's insistence on the 4-4-2 formation, a shape that will not be able to get the best of all Maradona's attacking talents.

Whilst these are problems that may afflict Argentina in the tournament's latter stages, they should not prevent Argentina from qualifying from Group B. The other teams who make up the group are Nigeria, South Korea and Greece, making Group B one of the only groups whose four teams originate from four

different continents. With Argentina firm favourites to take top spot, the second qualifying place will be keenly contested by the other teams.

Nigeria are most people's favourites to win that battle. Of all the African nations involved, many will look to Nigeria as the team most likely to carry the African flag deepest into the tournament. With Algeria, Ghana, Cameroon, Ivory Coast and the hosts themselves South Africa, all either in tough groups, or in the grip of internal division within their respective squads, Nigeria will carry the hopes of all of Africa should they fulfil their potential and qualify from this Group. The Nigerians certainly have a solid spine of talent, which will most likely prove the difference between themselves and the other teams. Boasting a host of proven top flight talent with names such as Yakubu, Obafemi Martins, John Mikel Obi and Joseph Yobo, this is a team that can boast great talent all over the pitch, an advantage that it holds over the other South Korea and Greece.

That leaves South Korea and Greece. Whilst the odds are stacked against them, both sides have achieved remarkable feats in recent times. In 2002 the South Koreans shocked everyone when they knocked out Italy on home turf to finish fourth in Asia's first World Cup. Two years later in Portugal, at the 2004 edition of the EURO, Greece went one step further and shocked everyone when they won the competition against the Portuguese. Whilst such achievements are seemingly out of their reach this time, these accomplishment remind us that these are two sides you should never count out.

South Korea will look to fan favourite Park Ji-Sung of Manchester United who has recently enjoyed his two greatest seasons with the English giants developing a knack for scoring important goals. A long with other talents such as Lee Chung-Yong of Bolton and up and comer Lee Sung-Yeoul, North Korea have the talent to spring a surprise or too, and their more favoured opponents will have to ensure they are at the top of their game. The Koreans recently demonstrated their ability to compete with the best when they recently took on Spain, where they were only defeated by a late Jesus Navas wonder strike.

The Greeks on the other hand have not enjoyed the best warm up to the tournament. They were unable to beat the North Koreans, who many believe are a much weaker outfit than the South Korean side, being held to a 2-2 draw. This was followed up by a 1-0 defeat to Paraguay, meaning that Otto Rehhagel has his work cut out in ensuring that Greek morale is not at a complete low when the Greek side kick off their first game of the tournament against the South Koreans on the 12th of June. Any hope that Greece has of making out of this tough group will fall heavily on the shoulders of the likes of Giorgos Samaras, Basinas, Charisteas and captain Karagounis.

Predicted Final Standings:

- Argentina
- Nigeria
- South Korea
- Greece

Key Players:

Argentina: Lionel Messi – World's greatest player at the moment. He

can take this tournament by storm...if Maradona can find a shape that gets the best out of him.

Nigeria: Obafemi Martins – A powerful striker who has rediscovered some good form this season with a move to ex German champions Wolfsburg. Can score from a variety of positions, and surely Nigeria's most dangerous player.

South Korea: Park Ji-Sung – A real accomplished midfielder and captain. Versatile, direct and has added the ability to score important goals to his game.

Greece: Giorgos Karagounis – Greece's captain, and perhaps their best player. Sticky dribbler and a long range threat.



Messi: Can the mini maestro lead Argentina to the pinnacle of world football once again?

To Win Group

Argentina 1.40
Nigeria 5.75
Greece 7.50
South Korea 12.00



Fast Facts

ARGENTINA
Nickname(s): La Albiceleste (White and Sky blue)
Association: Asociación del Fútbol Argentino (Argentine Football Association)
Confederation: CONMEBOL (South America)
Head coach: Diego Maradona
Captain: Javier Mascherano
Appearance in Finals: 15
Best Performance: Winners (1978, 1986)
Home stadium: El Monumental, Estadio Gigante de Arroyito.
FIFA ranking: 7

GREECE
Association: Hellenic Football Federation
Confederation: UEFA (Europe)
Head coach: Otto Rehhagel
Asst coach: Ioannis Topalidis
Captain: Giorgos Karagounis
Appearance in Finals: 2
Best Performance: Group Stage (1994)
Home stadium: Olympic Stadium
FIFA ranking: 13

SOUTH KOREA
Nickname(s): Taegeuk Jeonsa (Taegeuk Warriors), Tigers of Asia, Red Devils
Association: KFA
Confederation: AFC (Asia)
Head coach: Huh Jung-Moo
Captain: Park Ji-Sung
Appearance in Finals: 8
Best Performance: 4th Place (2002)
Home stadium: Seoul World Cup Stadium
FIFA ranking: 47

NIGERIA
Nickname(s): Super Eagles
Association: Nigeria Football Federation
Confederation: CAF (Africa)
Head coach: Lars Lagerbäck
Asst coach: Roland Andersson
Captain: Nwankwo Kanu
Appearance in Finals: 4
Best Performance: Rouns of 16 (1994, 1998)
Home stadium: Abuja Stadium
FIFA ranking: 21

England hot favourites to progress

By Russ Gibbs

Talk is cheap. It's a phrase that's been heard countless times down the years but still rings true to this day. And that's probably why there hasn't been as much gung-ho roaring from the Three Lions camp in preparation for this World Cup. The time for talking for England is well and truly over and, under the shrewd and astute leadership of Fabio Capello, 2010 looms as good a chance as any to end 44 years of hurt.

First things first though and there's a group stage to negotiate. When the draw for the World Cup Finals was made in December last year the collective sigh of relief could be heard reverberating around the nation as England were handed what some newspapers labeled an EASY (England, Algeria, Slovenia, Yanks) passage into the knockout stage of the World's greatest competition. But will it be so straightforward?

On the face of it the answer is a resounding yes. Boasting the talents of Wayne Rooney, in superlative goal scoring form for club and country this past season, midfield dynamo's Frank Lampard and Steven Gerrard, a talismanic striker in Peter Crouch (who boasts a better goals to games ratio at international level than even Rooney) and a defence that can call on the talents of John Terry and Rio Ferdinand, England have a formidable team.

There are patches in the squad that look suspect though, in particular between the posts. Capello has yet too fully to decide who his number one is. David James, Robert Green and Joe Hart are the men in line for the shot-stopper's shirt with Green the most likely given Capello's recent choices. Finding the answer to this question is paramount for England's hopes. And where would England be if injury suddenly befell Rooney? The answer to that conundrum is so depressing that plenty of Englishmen will be praying for Rooney's health throughout June and July.

What of England's opponents? The USA look likely to claim second place in the group although with the threat of talent such as Landon Donovan, Clint Dempsey and Jozy Altidore, all of who played Premier League football in 2009/2010, England certainly won't take them lightly. A competitive showing at the Confederations Cup last year saw the USA end Spain's world-record equaling unbeaten run with a stunning 2-0 victory to reach the Final where they led Brazil by the same score before coming unstuck.

All of which should add up to England being very wary of the threat of their cousins from across the Atlantic. Whilst a repeat of the 1950 World Cup upset of the USA defeating England 1-0 is highly unlikely there are sure to be plenty of uncomfortable moments for Fabio Capello when the teams face off on June 12th in Rustenburg.

A meek surrender to perennial rivals

Egypt in the semi-final of the African Cup of Nations showed a side of Algerian football that was not pretty. A hat-trick of red cards saw the North Africans exit the competition in disgrace and proved an unsightly conclusion to a tournament that had seen the 'Desert Foxes' defeat the much-fancied Ivory Coast in the Quarter Finals. Prior to that Algeria had suffered a 3-0 pool stage loss to Malawi proving what an enigma they are. Faces familiar to those who watch British football will be Portsmouth duo Nadir Belhadj and Hassan Yebda and towering Rangers defender Majid Bougherra, but even the presence of these seasoned campaigners won't get Algeria out of the pool.

And so that leaves Slovenia. A decent performance against England at Wembley Stadium last September has seen confidence soar in the Slovenian camp despite their poor record at World Cup Finals. Three defeats in the 2006 competition, and a raft of off-field problems, marred their debut appearance and fears are that history could repeat itself.

Slovenia came through a tough European qualifying pool that also included Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland, finishing second before surprising Guus Hiddink's Russia on away goals rule after a 2-2 aggregate draw in the Play-Offs. Therefore, no-one will treat them as cannon-fodder and, a decent result against the USA could even see them make the second stage. That would be a miracle for the small East-

ern-European nation, but the World Cup is all about dreams, something that England's long-suffering support knows all too well.

Prediction to win group: England
Key players of group: You can't go past Wayne Rooney for England and, if the USA is to progress to the second round, Landon Donovan.

Weakest link: Algeria
Useless trivia: At 6ft 7" Tottenham Hotspur striker Peter Crouch is the tallest player ever to play international football for England.



England fans will be hoping Wayne Rooney can replicate his outstanding EPL form on the world's greatest stage.

To Win Group

England	1.30
USA	6.00
Slovenia	10.00
Algeria	19.00

Fast Facts

ALGERIA
Nickname(s): Les Fennecs (The Desert Foxes)
Association: Fédération Algérienne de Football
Confederation: CAF (Africa)
Head coach: Rabah Saadane
Asst coach: Zoheir Djelloul
Captain: Yazid Mansouri
Appearance in Finals: 3
Best Performance: Group Stage (1982, 1986)
Home stadium: Stade 5 Juillet 1962
FIFA ranking: 30

ENGLAND
Nickname(s): The Three Lions
Association: The Football Association
Confederation: UEFA (Europe)
Head coach: Fabio Capello
Asst coach: Italo Galbiati, Franco Baldini
Captain: Rio Ferdinand
Appearance in Finals: 13
Best Performance: Winners (1966)
Home stadium: Wembley Stadium
FIFA ranking: 8

USA
Association: United States Soccer Federation
Confederation: CONCACAF (North America)
Head coach: Bob Bradley
Asst coach: Mike Sorber, Lubos Kubik, Jesse Marsch, Pierre Barrieu, Zak Abdel
Captain: Carlos Bocanegra
Appearance in Finals: 9
Best Performance: 3rd Place (1930)
FIFA ranking: 14

SLOVENIA
Association: Football Association of Slovenia
Confederation: UEFA (Europe)
Head coach: Matjaz Kek
Captain: Robert Koren
Appearance in Finals: 2
Best Performance: Group Stage (2002)
Home stadium: Stadion Ljudski vrt, Športni park Stožice
FIFA ranking: 25

Aussie fate awaits in tough group

By Alex Milic

Serbia
This will be Serbia's first appearance as an independent nation after previously competing under the flag of Yugoslavia, and later Serbia and Montenegro.

Under the guidance of former Real Madrid, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid boss Radomir Antic, Serbia Impressed in qualifying finishing on top of Group 7 ahead of France, wrapping up qualification with a game to spare. The moment of glory came with a 5-0 thrashing of Romania in Belgrade.

The defence is the strongest part of the Serbian squad, Nemanja Vidic and Branislav Ivanovic commanding the backline to perfection and their attacking instincts at set pieces proved valuable in Serbia's qualifying campaign. Milos Krasic and Milan Jovanovic, were exceptional on the wings throughout the campaign.

The biggest concern will be goalkeeper Vladimir Stojkovic who severely lacks match time after failing to earn a starting spot for his club sides. We are use to seeing Serbia fall under pressure, will 2010 be the same?

Key Player
Milan Jovanovic (Standard Leige, Belgium)
Electrifying pace, a great football brain and an eye for goal. It was a joy to watch Jovanovic during the qualifying campaign, his excellent performances have seen many European clubs consider meeting his eight million euro valuation. He was Serbia's top scorer with five goals.

Germany
Germany is a side that always defies the

odds. A solid team that always punches above its weight and compared to more technically gifted opponents..

Didn't lose a game in qualifying, averaging more than two goals a game. Home and away wins against a strong Russian side were the most impressive results.

Manager Joachim Low has made some controversial decisions. He left out German League top scorer Kevin Kuranyi and experienced midfielder Torste Frings has been overlooked while Germany's best player in the last decade Michael Ballack is out injured.

Organised and disciplined, Germany's a team which has a balanced side of rising stars and experienced professionals. They are exceptionally dangerous on the wings with Lukas Podolski and rising star Thomas Muller producing electrifying runs.

They long vulnerable at the back and this can be a big problem. For a long time Germany will have a young keeper not used to the standards of a major tournament like the World Cup.

Key Player
Mesut Ozil – Werder Bremen
Nations brightest talent, his excellent skills have caught the eye of many European clubs and it's a matter of time before he excites the World. Fabulous technique and electrifying pace has made life hard for Bundesliga defences. Has the ability to produce inch perfect passes and crosses.

Australia
A successful transition to Asia witnessed the Socceroos concede only four goals in fourteen games during qualifying. Many of the players from the 06' team will be playing at their last World Cup.
Tactics of manager Pim Verbeek have been constantly criticised by the Australian pub-

lic who believe they are not playing good football even though they were one of the first teams to book a spot for South Africa. The country's most prolific goal scorer at club level Scott McDonald has been left out of the squad, for a side that lacks fire power, this decision could prove costly for Pim.

Australia's midfield is considered the strongest part of the team led by Marko Bresciano and Vince Grella and Jason Culina. Harry Kewell's fitness is the number one worry for Australia, his influence on the side is crucial.

A disciplined squad which has the determination to prove critics wrong, the crucial games will be against Ghana and Serbia.

Key Player
Tim Cahill
The Everton midfielder scored two historic and memorable goals in the last World Cup against Japan, the true leader of the Socceroos has been the nations number one player in the last five years. Constantly scores goals of his club and country. Excellent at set pieces and has a nick of finding himself in the right place at the right time. His performances will be vital for Australia.

Ghana
Reached the Second Round in the last World Cup and reached the final of the African Cup of Nations where they lost to Egypt. Serbian coach Milovan Rajevac has proven to be a tactical genius, his defensive style of play has worked wonders. Ghana was the first African apart from the hosts to qualify for the finals.

Missing influential midfielder Michael Essien who has been carrying an injury all season. This is a big blow for a side that lacks spark and individual brilliance. Most of the team are fringe players at their respective clubs and will lack the high level

match practice for a tournament like the World Cup.

Key Player
Sully Muntari
Still considered a valuable asset to the side, especially after losing Essien. Didn't play much for Internazionale but contributed to their treble winning season with a few goals. A very problematic figure that was brought back into the side after Rajevac had no other options. Muntari's pace and vision will be key for the Black Stars.

Verdict
Group favourites Germany should top the group leaving second place open to all three teams who have the ability to get through. Serbia is most likely to join Germany but recent performances at major tournaments have shown they buckle under pressure. Ghana has the ability to cause an upset or two as does a spirited Australian side.



Young gun Mesut Ozil has the perfect opportunity to shine on the world stage.

To Win Group

Germany	1.80
Serbia	4.00
Ghana	5.75
Australia	8.00

Fast Facts

GERMANY
Nickname(s): Die Mannschaft (The Team), Die DFB-Elf (The DFB-Eleven)
Association: German Football Association, (Deutscher Fußball-Bund — DFB)
Confederation: UEFA (Europe)
Head coach: Joachim Löw
Captain: Philipp Lahm (cover for Michael Ballack)
Appearance in Finals: 17
Best Performance: Winners (1954, 1974, 1990)
FIFA ranking: 6

AUSTRALIA
Nickname(s): Socceroos
Association: Football Federation Australia (FFA)
Confederation: AFC (Asia)
Head coach: Pim Verbeek
Captain: Lucas Neill
Appearance in Finals: 3
Best Performance: Round of 16 (2006)
Home stadium: ANZ Stadium (Sydney), Etihad Stadium (Melbourne), Melbourne Cricket Ground, Suncorp Stadium (Brisbane), Sydney Football Stadium
FIFA ranking: 20

GHANA
Nickname(s): The Black Stars
Association: Ghana Football Association
Confederation: CAF (Africa)
Head coach: Milovan Rajevac
Captain: Stephen Appiah
Appearance in Finals: 2
Best Performance: Round of 16 (2006)
Home stadium: Ohene Djan Sports Stadium
FIFA ranking: 32

SERBIA
Nickname(s): Beli Orlovi (White Eagles)
Association: Football Association of Serbia
Confederation: UEFA (Europe)
Head coach: Radomir Antić
Captain: Dejan Stanković
Appearance in Finals: 11 (Includes Yugoslavia)
Best Performance: 4th Place (1930, 1962)
Home stadium: Stadion: Crvena Zvezda, Belgrade
FIFA ranking: 15

Orange Army to take all before it

By Leroy Robinson

Group E features Holland, Denmark, Japan and Cameroon. The Dutch will start favourites for the group and will be hoping to improve upon their last World Cup showing when they were bumped in the second round by Portugal. The other teams all have a realistic shot of taking second in what should be a tight group.

Dutch coach Bert van Marwijk sprung few surprises with his squad selection. Most of the players ply their trade abroad, with a number playing in the EPL. The Dutch play a 4-3-3 with Robin Van Persie as the focal point of the attack and Arjen Robben and Dirk Kuyt either side. Their strength lies in their creative play through either Rafael van der Vaart or Wesley Sneijder, and getting the ball to Robben in wide positions 1 on 1.

Their first game is against a Denmark side that didn't make it to the last World Cup and shouldn't be underestimated. Remember, they made it through a group with Sweden and Portugal. Their squad includes several players who currently (and used to) play in England including Jesper Gronkjaer and Dennis Rommedahl as well as Daniel Agger and Thomas Sorensen. Their strength lies in midfield with Juventus player Christian Poulsen and Werder Bremen's Daniel Jensen. A tough team to break down they'll most likely play with five in midfield and Nicklas Bendtner upfront on his own.

Japan has had a turbulent build-up to the finals, losing four straight warm-up games. Their warm up games have seen them look lightweight upfront. They'll most likely play a 4-5-1 in South Africa. Celtic and Fulham fans will recognise Shunsuke Nakamura and Junichi Inamoto. Their midfield is the key to their play, with much expected of Keisuke Honda of CSKA Moscow and Makoto Hasebe of VFL Wolfsburg.

The Japanese play Cameroon in their first match and as usual an African nation has changed its coach in the build up to the World Cup. Paul Le Guen has been in his job under a year and is tasked with guiding The Lions into the second stage. He has on his side a very experienced squad, playing as they do for several top European sides. Strange to say it for an African side but their strength is in defensive positions. Assou-Ekotto and Bassong play for Spurs and central defender Stephane Mbia is coming off a Ligue 1 title with Marseille. Rigobert Song is 34 and playing in his 4th World Cup and Aurelien Chedjou has had a strong season in France for Lille. To help protect the back four there is Alex Song of Arsenal and Jean Makoun of Lyon. Then there's always goal poacher Samuel Eto'o to tuck the ball away once they've shut the back door.

Overall the biggest question in the group seems to be can the Dutch be creative enough to unlock the five-man midfield systems the other teams will probably employ against them. The key, as ever, is the first goal. The Dutch score it and they win, they don't and they'll struggle. Make no mistake Denmark, Cameroon and Japan would all accept a draw against the group favourites. It's how they do against each other though that will define their positions.

Key Players

HOLLAND: Much is expected of Arjen Robben. At Bayern Munich he has found the type of consistency from a winger/forward that only Cristiano Ronaldo has managed this season. They'll need goals and assists so the mantra has to be to get the ball to him early and often, that's of course if he's fit.

DENMARK: Nicklas Bendtner will most likely play upfront on his own or with an attacking midfielder behind him so his holding up of the ball is vital. As the focal point of the attack he'll need to make sure the

ball sticks and that he brings his teammates into play to relieve pressure. Arsenal fans should be prepared to see a different player. He has the trust of his colleagues and the coach and while he could improve his goal scoring record this is the perfect stage to do it, especially against the smaller Japanese defenders.

JAPAN: For the Samurai Blue Keisuke Honda is the one player who needs to perform if they are to have a chance of success. The first Japanese to score in the UCL, (and on his debut) Honda is a creative midfield player and an excellent free kick taker.

CAMEROON: For Cameroon to do anything in this tournament Samuel Eto'o needs to catch fire. He needs to be an example to his teammates, work tirelessly and become a cheerleader when things aren't going right. Too often his head goes down for The Lions when things don't go his way. As this will probably be his last World Cup Samuel needs to think about how he wants to be remembered, not just by Cameroon but the football world.

Weakest Link

HOLLAND: This will be the first major tournament since 1996 in which Edwin van der Sar hasn't been between the sticks. The pressure will be on Maarten Stekelenburg, the Ajax shot stopper. In front of him the defence looks weak. Giovanni van Bronckhorst and Andre Ooijer don't inspire confidence and Khalid Boulahrouz and John Heitinga are red cards waiting to happen.

DENMARK: Other than Bendtner there is a lack of goal scoring threat from Denmark and no quality attacking cover should the Arsenal player be injured. The midfield lacks the speed and creativity to dribble by defenders meaning much of their play could be in front of their opponents and too predictable.

JAPAN: The team isn't physically imposing and can be undone at corners due to its lack of height. Despite lots of neat interplay

their work in the final third often lacks a cutting edge.

CAMEROON: A lack of creativity in the centre of the field means they'll probably play both Alex Song and Jean Makoun, two defensive midfielders.

Predictions

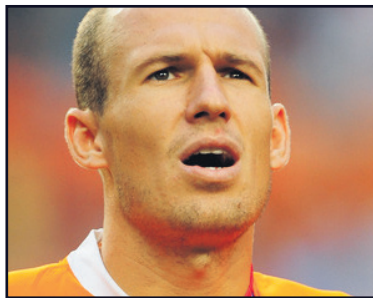
Holland will win the group and go unbeaten. The superior defensive organisation of Cameroon makes them second. Denmark will finish a close third and the Japanese will be lucky to get a point.

Useless Trivia

**In 1994, at the age of 42 years and 39 days, Cameroon's Roger Milla became the oldest player ever to play in a World Cup. He also became the oldest to score – against Russia.*

**The furthest an African team has gotten in the World Cup is the quarter finals (Cameroon - 1990 and Senegal - 2002)*

**Nicklas Bendtner became romantically involved with Baroness Caroline Luell-Brockdorff, a member of the Danish royal family, after he appeared as a guest on a reality TV show in which she was renovating her castle.*



Duth fans will be hoping Arjen Robben can continue his rich vein of recent form.

To Win Group	
Holland	1.57
Denmark	5.00
Cameroon	5.00
Japan	11.00

Fast Facts	
	CAMEROON Nickname: Les Lions Indomptables (The Indomitable Lions) Association: Fédération Camerounaise de Football Confederation: CAF (Africa) Head coach: Paul Le Guen Asst coach: Yves Colleu, Thomas Nkono Captain: Samuel Eto'o Appearance in Finals: 6 Best Performance: Quarter Finals (1990) Home stadium: Stade Omnisports FIFA ranking: 19
	DENMARK Nickname(s): Danish Dynamite, Olsen-Banden (The Olsen Gang), Olsens Elleve (Olsen's Eleven) Association: Danish Football Association (Dansk Boldspil-Union) Confederation: UEFA (Europe) Head coach: Morten Olsen Asst coach: Peter Bonde, Torben Storm Captain: Jon Dahl Tomasson Appearance in Finals: 4 Best Performance: Quarter Finals (1998) Home stadium: Parken Stadium FIFA ranking: 36
	JAPAN Nickname(s): Samurai Blue Association: Japan Football Association Confederation: AFC (Asia) Head coach: Takeshi Okada Captain: Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi Appearance in Finals: 4 Best Performance: Round of 16 (2002) FIFA ranking: 45
	HOLLAND Nickname: Oranje, The Flying Dutchmen, Clockwork Orange, La Naranja Mecánica Association: Koninklijke Nederlandse Voetbalbond — KNVB Confederation: UEFA (Europe) Head coach: Bert van Marwijk Asst coach: Philip Cocu, Frank de Boer, Dick Voorn Captain: Giovanni van Bronckhorst Appearance in Finals: 9 Best Performance: Runners Up (1974, 1978) Home stadium: Amsterdam Arena, De Kuip, Philips Stadion FIFA ranking: 4

Azzurri aiming to retain the crown

By Adam North

World Cup Group F will be contested by Italy, Paraguay, Slovakia and New Zealand. Despite containing the current and defending World Champions, there is not much expected in the way of excitement and intrigue from this group. Before even one ball has been kicked in anger, it already looks like a forgone conclusion which team will finish first, which will finish bottom, and which two teams will be left to scrap over second position.

Four years ago Italy stunned many pundits by making it to another World Cup Final, and then went one step further and took the trophy home. This year, however, will prove to be a much tougher test. The Azzurri are fairly long odds to repeat their triumph of four years ago, and it's easy to see why. Looking at the Italian squad it's hard to pick out many players of a similar calibre, and with the same level of experience as the men who were crowned World Champs. Of course Italy, under Marcello Lippi, will be disciplined, defensively strong, and will be difficult to beat. Yet their lack of squad depth and quality, especially up front, suggest that they won't be seen much further than the quarter finals.

Despite Italy's shortcomings they should still win this group by a canter. None of their opponents have much experience in winning games at a World Cup, and none of the three are overburdened with talent which will be able to break down the always stubborn Italian defence. The only stumbling block which I can see is against Paraguay in the first game, partly due to the fact that the Italians may be a touch complacent after being drawn in such an easy group, and also the Paraguayan front two can cause problems if the Italian defence

is not on a par with previous years. The South American side qualified well for South Africa, however most of their good results were garnered at home, and I can't really see Paraguay beating the Italians.

As sure as Italy are to finish top, New Zealand will certainly finish bottom. The All Whites did ease through qualification, though with all due respect they did not have to play any opposition with any experience or quality, and you would have to think that this step up in competition will be difficult to achieve for them. They are a hard working team which function in a not too dissimilar way to a lower division English side. In fact their most well known player, defender Ryan Nelson, plies his trade in England for Blackburn Rovers. But they struggle to create much up front, and often fail to score goals, as shown last year in the Confederations Cup, where New Zealand lost all three games they played, only scoring one. I would guess that we should expect similar results against the Italians, Paraguayans, and Slovaks.

The only real intrigue in Group F surrounds who will attain second position. If we are to assume that Italy are victorious in all their games, and New Zealand lose all theirs, then the second position in the group will be contested in the match between Paraguay and Slovakia.

Both nations possess some talented players, but the greater talent certainly emanates from the South Americans. In Roque Santa Cruz and Oscar Cardozo Paraguay have one of the more talented front pairs in the whole competition, and if they both play well then Paraguay can cause most national defences trouble. They are also capable of beating bigger teams, as they knocked off both South American giants in qualification for the World Cup, Argentina and Brazil, and in the South American group they finished above Argentina. There is a note of

caution for Paraguay supporters however, as most of their good results occurred at home, and they have previously struggled away from home, especially at World Cup tournaments.

Slovakia do have some talented players on their side, and their main attacking threat Marek Hamsik is currently a much sort after player, apparently attracting bids from teams from all over Europe. Hamsik is given a free role for his country, and he could create havoc against all three opposition teams in the group. However Slovakia have very little experience at this level of competition, and I cannot see them stopping Paraguay from reaching the second stage.

Prediction: *It would be a surprise to me if Italy were to even draw a game here, and they should top Group F with three wins. Conversely, New Zealand will think it an achievement to even score a goal, and should finish bottom without a point. Second place will be contested by Paraguay and Slovakia, and I think the more talented strike force of the South Americans will outmuscle the Europeans, with Paraguay going into the second stage of the competition alongside the Italians.*

Men to Watch:

Italy – Andrea Pirlo
Perhaps past his best, yet Pirlo is still the main creator for his country, especially in the absence of players like Totti. When he plays well he is inventive, elusive and tough to handle for any opposition.

Paraguay - Oscar Cardozo
Could still miss the tournament through injury, but if he does play he could really

make a name for himself. Scored over thirty goals for Benfica this season, and also carries a real goal threat for his country, especially when partnered with another strong forward.

Slovakia – Marek Hamsik
The young Slovakian will be out to prove his worth as an attacking threat, and if he displays his talents on the biggest stage he could force a move in the summer to a bigger club based on his skill and creativity.

New Zealand – Ryan Nelson
An inspirational captain, will prove his toughness and leadership skills on the biggest stage, yet it is somewhat telling that the All Whites star name is a defender and not an attacking player.



Can the Azzurri retain the crown? Traditionally slow starters, No doubt they will have to be prepared to encounter some stiff opposition along the way..

To Win Group	
Italy	1.44
Paraguay	4.00
Slovakia	7.00
New Zealand	41.00

Fast Facts	
	ITALY Nickname(s): Azzurri Association: Federazione Italiana Giuoco Calcio Confederation: UEFA (Europe) Head coach: Marcello Lippi Captain: Fabio Cannavaro Appearance in Finals: 17 Best Performance: Winners (1934, 1938, 1982, 2006) FIFA ranking: 5
	PARAGUAY Nickname(s): Guaraníes, La Albirroja (White and red) Association: Asociación Paraguaya de Fútbol Confederation: CONMEBOL (South America) Head coach: Gerardo Martino Captain: Denis Caniza Appearance in Finals: 4 Best Performance: Round of 16 (1986, 1998, 2002) Home stadium: Estadio Defensores del Chaco FIFA ranking: 31
	SLOVAKIA Nickname(s): Repre Association: Slovenský futbalový zväz Confederation: UEFA (Europe) Head coach: Vladimír Weiss Asst coach: Michal Hipp Captain: Marek Hamšík Appearance in Finals: 9 (Includes Czechoslovakia) Best Performance: Runners Up (1934, 1962) Home stadium: Tehelné pole (Bratislava) FIFA ranking: 34
	NEW ZEALAND Nickname(s): All Whites Association: New Zealand Football (NZF) Confederation: OFC (Oceania) Head coach: Ricki Herbert Captain: Ryan Nelsen Appearance in Finals: 2 Best Performance: Group Stage (1982) Home stadium: North Harbour Stadium (Auckland), Westpac Stadium (Wellington) FIFA ranking: 78

Expectations of ‘Group of Death’

By Mike Salter

Group G has had the honour of being classified as the “Group of Death” by most pundits, and there’s no doubt that eternal favourites Brazil would have hoped for an easier task in their first few games. The group features three of the biggest stars in world football, namely Cristiano Ronaldo, Kaka and Didier Drogba, and a side of unknowns from Asia who made it through their challenging final qualifying group with surprising poise.

Brazil

After an uncertain start, Dunga has built a tough, prgmatic team in his own image. Brazil’s victory at last year’s Confederations Cup, while perhaps a bad omen - no team has gone on to win the following year’s World Cup after taking out the Confeds - amply demonstrated their tournament credentials. Kaka may not have had the best of seasons at Real Madrid, but at his best he remains a playmaker of peerless class. There is finally a Brazilian keeper of world class as well; Inter Milan’s Julio Cesar has matured into a formidable force between the sticks, and his club colleague Lucio is still a pillar in defence. Sevilla’s Luis Fabiano, a hero of the Confederations Cup, is likely to start as the lone striker. Much of the attacking impetus is likely to come from out wide, with rampaging right-back Maicon, another Inter

man, always keen to get forward.

Korea DPR

1966, anyone? Back then, the North Koreans were true unknowns, who had barely ventured beyond the confines of the Communist world before opening their campaign in England. Now, thanks to the ubiquitous coverage of the game, their opponents have had a chance to size them up. Essentially they are a side built on a resolute defence; they conceded only five goals in 14 games in group qualifying, and are one of only two sides likely to start with three men in the centre of defence... the other being New Zealand. Their attack is built around Kawasaki Frontale’s Jong Tae-se, who gave notice of his form by scoring two fine goals in a recent friendly against Greece. Supporting striker Hong Yong-jo, another player with precious overseas experience, is not to be underestimated either.

Ivory Coast

A late coaching change, with qualifying mastermind Vahid Halilhodzic being replaced by former England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson, may be seen as either a stroke of genius or a lamentable knee-jerk reaction in hindsight. The Ivorians have enough quality players to worry any team: Didier Drogba, if he can recover from his elbow injury, is one of the most complete and dangerous strikers in the world, Salomon Kalou is an outstanding attacking partner for his club col-

league, and the Toure brothers - Barcelona’s Yaya and Kolo of Arsenal - need no introduction. The Ivorians will be dismayed to have landed in another very tough group after missing out on the second round in Germany despite playing very well against both Argentina and Holland. This time around, they will hope to go one better, but a win in their opening game against Portugal is a must.

Portugal

Cristiano Ronaldo may have enthralled the world at Manchester United, but he hasn’t quite been the same force at Real Madrid. His performances with Portugal, too, have been surprisingly ordinary; he failed to score a single goal in the qualifying campaign. The Portuguese do have other quality players, notably Manchester United’s Nani, but stars of the Germany 2006 and EURO 2004 campaigns such as playmaker Deco and defensive bedrock Ricardo Carvalho are probably past their best. Recent friendly results have not been particularly encouraging, either; modest Cape Verde held the Portuguese to a 0-0 draw, and a 3-1 win over a 10-man Cameroon was not terribly convincing. At least manager Carlos Queiroz will be on familiar territory, having previously endured a largely unsuccessful spell in charge of South Africa.

PREDICTIONS:

Group winners: Brazil.

Key player: Maicon. Brazil’s in-

creasing reliance on solid and relatively unadventurous players in midfield will put additional pressure on the fullbacks to get forward... and this is one fullback who does so very effectively.

Weakest link: Miguel. One of Portugal’s heroes at EURO 2004, but has struggled for form of late and could be a liability on the left side of defence.

Useless Trivia: The two group favourites, Brazil and Portugal, have met only once at the World Cup, the Portuguese winning 3-1 in 1966. After that, the Brazilians went on a run of eleven games undefeated at the tournament, so maybe they should be hoping for another defeat!



Maicon has had a stellar season at Inter and will be pivotal to Brazil’s chances.

To Win Group

Brazil	1.61
Portugal	3.75
Ivory Coast	5.00
North Korea	101.00

Fast Facts

BRAZIL
Nickname(s): Canarinho (Little Canary), A Seleção (The Selection), Verde-Amarela (Green and Yellow), The Samba Kings
Association: Confederação Brasileira de Futebol (Brazilian Football Confederation)
Confederation: CONMEBOL (South America)
Head coach: Dunga
Captain: Lúcio
Appearance in Finals: 19
Best Performance: Winners (1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002)
Home stadium: Maracanã, Morumbi, Mineirão
FIFA ranking: 1

PORTUGAL
Nickname(s): Selecção das Quinas
Association: Federação Portuguesa de Futebol
Confederation: UEFA (Europe)
Head coach: Carlos Queiroz
Captain: Cristiano Ronaldo
Appearance in Finals: 5
Best Performance: 3rd Place (1966)
FIFA ranking: 3

IVORY COAST
Nickname(s): Les Éléphants (The Elephants)
Association: Fédération Ivoirienne de Football
Confederation: CAF (Africa)
Head coach: Sven-Göran Eriksson
Captain: Didier Drogba
Appearance in Finals: 2
Best Performance: Group Stage(2006)
Home stadium: Stade Félix Houphouët-Boigny
FIFA ranking: 27

NORTH KOREA
Nickname(s): Chollima
Association: DPR Korea Football Association
Confederation: AFC (Asia)
Head coach: Kim Jong-Hun
Captain: Hong Yong-Jo
Home stadium: Kim Il-Sung Stadium
Appearance in Finals: 3
Best Performance: Winners (1930, 1950)
FIFA ranking 105

The group of attack and finesse

By Russ Gibbs

With Spain unlikely to slip up at such an early stage, Chile, Honduras and Switzerland will be battling it out in South Africa for entry into the second round, with an unfriendly encounter with Brazil potentially waiting.

Spain have waltzed through qualifying after winning Euro 2008, and look a completely different side to that of World Cups prior, where Spain would fall at the first major hurdle. However, first Luis Aragones and now Vicente del Bosque have revitalised a Spanish side brimming with star quality and they will be hoping to continue on their impressive form in South Africa.

The side can feasibly send out a World Cup winning team with Barcelona keeper Victor Valdes, defensive revelation Gerard Pique, midfield sensation Cesc Fabregas, and star striker Fernando Torres, all on the bench. Such is the depth of the Spanish World Cup squad, that injuries to star-players would only leave a minor dent in their charge for a first FIFA World Cup.

However, Spain is vulnerable at the back, and the lack of world-class fullbacks could cost Spain against any team with quality wingers. Further up the pitch, Spain will need Xavi and Iniesta to bounce back from a hectic season at Barcelona and control the ball for La Furia Roja.

Under former Argentina coach Marcelo ‘El Loco’ Bielsa, Spain’s opponents Chile have blossomed into a fluid attacking side, often employing a 3-4-3 approach as Bielsa looks to get the most out of a talented group of attacking players.

Humberto Suazo, Mark Gonzalez and 21-year-old Udinese wonderkid Alexis Sanchez will all be searching for goals, while Sporting CP’s playmaker Matias Fernandez will be charged with creating chances for

the forward line to exploit.

However, after conceding 22 goals on the road to South Africa, the Chilean defence will be sure to come under intense scrutiny. Teams looking to play on the counter-attack will have plenty of space after breaking down any attacking play, and a quality side could carve holes in Chile’s defence.

It should however make for entertaining football, and behind Australia’s games, Chile v Spain will certainly be one to watch, for attacking prowess if nothing else. However, the possibility of a clash between Chile and fellow South American side Brazil (as would occur if Chile finish second in the group) will not be a promising prospect for the Chileans.

Even if Brazil stumbles, they can look forward to facing Portugal, Ivory Coast or North Korea (if Kim Jong-il gets his way...). Chile lost both encounters with Brazil in qualifying, and Bielsa will need to pull a miracle out of the bag if they are to top their South American rivals in a possible round of sixteen encounter.

Switzerland sealed their qualification for the 2010 World Cup with a goalless draw against Israel, and this defensive style of play will likely feature once again in South Africa. Their steady and cautious attitude is in stark contrast to group opponents Spain and Chile, and could potentially see them grab an unlikely result as they sit back and look to hit on the counter.

However, not all is well in the Swiss camp, and they may be relying on Phillipe Senderos in defence, despite his lack of game-time this season. Up-front, Switzerland will be hoping Alexander Frei has recovered from a broken arm, while Blaise Nkufo is getting on in life (at 35 years of age) and can no longer be considered the same threat he once was.

They can field a solid midfield though,

as Benjamin Huggel and Gokhan Inler will provide a defensive base that the likes of Tranquillo Barnetta and Gelson Fernandes will hope to exploit. In South Africa the midfield will really need to weigh in if the Swiss are going to have any chance, as strikers Frei and Nkufo (the pair combined to score 10 of Switzerland’s 18 in qualifying) are no longer as spritely as they once were.

Finally, rounding out the group is the Central American country of Honduras, where a solid core of European based players are combined well with the steely resolve of veterans Carlos Pavon and captain Amado Guevara. Alongside Guevara in the mid-field, Tottenham star Wilson Palacios is expected to play a key role. After a solid start to life at his new club, Palacios tailed off towards the end of the season and will be looking to bounce back in South Africa.

Up-front for the Central American side will be Genoa striker David Suazo (on loan from Internazionale) and 36-year-old Pavon. Suazo has had a good season at Genoa, while Pavon’s age brings with it a wealth of experience (he has recently hit the 100 caps for Honduras mark), and the team will be relying on the two for the majority of goals in South Africa.

Prediction:

If Spain brushes aside their group companions with ease, as expected, Chile will hope to seal second place with wins over Switzerland and Honduras. Despite a solid core, Honduras lack the quality needed to progress, leaving Chile and the Swiss to fight it out for second. While both teams are solid, and Switzerland’s strong defence will hope to keep Chile out while hitting back on the counter-attack, in all likelihood the South Americans will have too much for

Ottmar Hitzfeld’s side and will probably progress in second place.

To win: Spain

Players to watch: David Villa (Spain), Alexis Sanchez (Chile), Alexander Frei (Switzerland), Wilson Palacios (Honduras)

Weakest Link: Honduras

Useless Trivia: Spain won all ten matches in qualifying. Chile coach Marcelo Bielsa played two friendlies in the same day, against Northern Ireland and Israel. Yes, two games in one day. They don’t call him El Loco for nothing.



Ole! David Villa spearheads the Spanish tilt in South Africa and hopes to add the the World Cup to their European Championship crown.

To Win Group

Spain	1.25
Chile	5.50
Switzerland	11.00
Honduras	34.00

Fast Facts

SPAIN
Nickname(s): La Furia Roja (The Red Fury), La Furia Española (The Spanish Fury), La Roja (The Reds)
Association: Royal Spanish Football Federation
Confederation: UEFA (Europe)
Head coach: Vicente del Bosque
Captain: Iker Casillas
Appearance in Finals: 13
Best Performance: 4th Place (1950)
Home stadium: Santiago Bernabéu, Vicente Calderón, Mestalla
FIFA ranking: 2

CHILE
Nickname(s): La Roja (The Red One), El Equipo de Todos (Everybody’s Team)
Association: Federación de Fútbol de Chile
Confederation: CONMEBOL (Sth America)
Head coach: Marcelo Bielsa
Captain: Claudio Bravo
Appearance in Finals: 8
Best Performance: 3rd Place (1960)
Home stadium: Estadio Nacional
FIFA ranking: 18

SWITZERLAND
Nickname(s): Schweizer Nati
Association: Swiss Football Association
Head coach: Ottmar Hitzfeld
Captain: Alexander Frei
Appearance in Finals: 9
Best Performance: Quarter Finals (1934, 1938, 1954)
FIFA ranking 24

HONDURAS
Association: Federación Nacional Autónoma de Fútbol de Honduras
Confederation: CONCACAF (North America)
Head coach: Reinaldo Rueda
Captain: Amado Guevara
Appearance in Finals: 2
Best Performance: Group Stage (1982)
Home stadium: Estadio Olimpico Metropolitano
FIFA ranking: 38



The miracle of Kaiserslautern

As the Socceroos face their second World Cup finals series in succession in a very tough group in South Africa this week my mind goes back to the first game in Germany in 2006. I was privileged to be in Kaiserslautern to see Australia's first goal in the World Cup and the first victory along with a proportion of the estimated 60,000 Australians who were in Germany during the tournament, the largest outward movement of the population since the Second World War. Even getting there was a saga in itself as I did not have a press pass and only got tickets for the Brazil and Croatia games when I fluked them in the second round ballot when the unused corporate and other seats became available.

We had gone to Scotland early in June to see my mother-in-law who was in her 92nd year. We asked her what she wanted to do for her birthday and she said she wanted to travel down Loch Ness (where the monster is supposed to live) on the water, having done the road trip many times. The cruise liners were not interested in a party of three, so in the end all we could offer her was a jet boat. So we are thundering down the loch when my mobile rings and my son in Sydney asks me if I would like a ticket for the Japan game? Will a fish swim?

Having already booked flights for the other games, it is back to the travel agent and organising a 48-hour return trip to Germany. Arriving in Frankfurt-am-Main airport late at night I pick up tickets for the second and third games and a hire car. I am trying to find my way out of the car park and stop to find out how to put on the lights when the police want to book me for holding up traffic. Then it is out on to the A3 autobahn and 180 kilometres to Cologne at 130 km per hour in the dark on the wrong side of the road, being passed by cars going twice as fast. Somehow I find my way to the flat where a former student and his family are living at about 1 am. Tony Joel and I hit the road again the next morning a head south to Kaiserslautern where we have to track down Harry Kewell's manager, Bernie



Marco Bresciano lines up a free kick for the Socceroos against Japan in that unforgettable 3-1 opening group game win in Kaiserslautern 2006. Photo: Tony Joel.

Mandic, to pick up our tickets.

My match report was as follows.
'The stadium in Kaiserslautern is named after Fritz Walter the hero of the 'Miracle of Bern', West Germany's surprise victory over Ferenc Puskas's Hungarian maestros in the World Cup final in 1954. The victory helped restore self-respect to a country defeated in war, divided by

its conquerors, and still waiting the impact of economic growth. In June 2006 another miracle occurred when Australia came from behind to defeat Japan in the first match of its first World Cup final match since 1974.

With about six minutes to play most Australian fans, including the fanatics, were becoming resigned to a determined performance but a narrow loss to a dis-

puted goal to Japan, by Celtic playmaker Shunsuke Nakamura. The Socceroos defence had been pulled around and denuded in order to bring on extra attackers. The forwards had struggled without result but with some flair and great commitment in spite of much poor delivery of final crosses and passes.

Then it happened. A good move seemed to have foundered like so many

before on the rock of the Japanese defence led by Tsuneyasu Miyamoto. But this time substitute Tim Cahill poked out a leg and directed a shot between several bodies and past outstanding keeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi. This was Australia's first ever goal in a World Cup finals match. I had thought, if we ever get one, we will get more. And so, brilliantly, it proved. This time Cahill connected with a cut back and struck a shot which hit the inside of the left-hand post and finished in the right corner of the net. Then talismanic substitute John Aloisi made it three-one deep into injury time with another hard-driven shot.

This was a result won by sheer dogged refusal to accept defeat allied to supreme fitness in quite oppressive heat. Guus Hiddink's severe training regime had paid off as the Japanese wilted under the relentless aerial bombardment of the last half-hour even though all the goals were scored at ground level.

Nevertheless there were problems which will need to be addressed before Australia faces Brazil. Craig Moore was repeatedly isolated out on the right by the Japanese wide players. Brett Emerton and Luke Wilshire have much to answer for, by neglecting to provide cover in their search for a breakthrough. Moore was substituted though it is not clear whether this was the result of injury, the fact that he had been booked, because he was being saved for the Brazil game, or simply to allow an extra attacker to come on. Scott Chipperfield did very well when moved inside alongside the outstanding Lucas Neill in central defence in the latter stages.

Vince Grella got himself cautioned, which means he will have to be even more careful against Brazil if he is not to miss the critical match against Croatia which will determine the outcome of the group. That is certain to be a live encounter, though if Croatia could get any kind of result against Brazil then things could be very interesting indeed.'

I wonder if we can conjure up another miracle in 2010, against Germany?



Cathie Wells and Frances Hay on a jet-boat on Loch Ness. Photo: Roy Hay



Kangaroo at Kaiserslautern. Photo: Tony Joel.



TSIGAN'S TSIGAR

With Mike Lilikakis

Tsigan Rolls One Up from the South Coast!

Underdogged: World Cup upsets

Stranger things have happened. For example, did you know that I was born bum first? Lets just get that out of the way. I insincerely hope you have that image stuck in your head, and if you don't I'd be more than happy to give you a private viewing of the Dark Side of the Moon. Per chance, what's worse? Watching SBS football without subtitles, or having to listen to Fozzy on his unimaginative evaluative fartball expert tease. I could only wish Fozzy could crack a few jokes about Les Murrays false teeth, and perhaps show a human side. But then again, his evaluations are comical so lets be content with his gorgeous silver streaks and smug figjam. (Disclaimer: I endorse all Les Murray products)

No, I'm not having a dig at him. If I was, he would be a few feet into it and the smell would be like Wer-ribee Plaza on a Friday night. The countdown has begun without Molly Meldrum, and sadly, we'll have to put up with the humdrum of a panel which has little Bach and no bite. Can't wait to go Chopin and buy some bum clothes.

Well, what do you want me to say? That I'm not a little hurt by being sacked by the Australian Matildas as their physio? That I switched the Canasten with Deep Heat? Look, I thought it was funny at the time, and quite Frank Lee if you saw my head first thing in the morning you'd wish you smelled napalm too. But seriously Brew, what chances do you give Australia to win the World Cup? Eh? Well, considering I don't rate Australia any more than Slovenia, New Zealand or the USA to pass through (like a fart in a cupboard) to the next round I got to thinking; which is quite dangerous considering my last four braincells are alkaline, that stranger things have happened in the bizarre wide world of the Cuppa Moondial.

Here's Bob Dylan's top ten hits of the last 70 years.

10) East Germany 1-West Germany 0 (1974):

Nobody saw this one coming. How could the hosts lose to their lowly Tasmanian cousins from the other side of the Berlin Wall? Lose they did, although Franz Heinz Beanz Karlz Schultz Jurgenz Beckenbauer und his Vest Cherman Volschprucht teammates had ze last laff - zey von ze World Kupp, ze World Vorr, Ze Copa Amerika und put ze first man into outer shpace. PLUS VEE HAFF KAOS!!! Hmm daas es gud mein schatzi. Kisses to mein fuhrer.

9) Bulgaria 2-Germany 1 (1994):

Ze Germans looked vell on zeir vay.... ACH...STOP IT! ahem...to reaching their fourth straight final at the World Cup ven Lothar Matthaus scored early in ze second half of zis quarter-final. Ze Bulgarians, STOP IT DAMMIT!..... however, had other ideas, spoiling the party when they scored two goals three minutes apart late in the game to send Ze Germans crashing out. Achh und Him-



Claudio Caniggia against Cameroon in Italia 1990

mel!

8) Northern Ireland 1-Spain 0 (1982):

Northern Oireland had to play the foinal 30 minutes a man down, but it fought hard to preserve a slender bonny lass with huge thighs and a good Protestant sort, the koin of lass you'd take home t'yer moother...ahem...1-0 lead over the hosts and repelled wave after wave of Spanish attack to hold on for the victory. Norman Whiteside was about 5 years old and ran rings around the Spanezicos and their greasy Pamplona minions. Ole with a double pint'a Guinness and a pie floater!

7) South Korea 2-Italy 1 (2002):

The Azzurri looked to have it in the bag. Just because they played like sheilas somehow gave them the right to treat the Pak Yook as a team of Hoy Sin...but then Seol Ki-Hyeon Long di Dongdong scored in the 89th minute to bowtie the contest. Compatriot Ahn Jung-Hwan Bang Mang Ring Ving Sing Ding scored the 'golden calf' in extra time to send South Korea through to the quarter-finals in the biggest upset at the World Cup since Korea's neighbours to the north defeated Italy 36 years earlier.

6) North Korea 1-Italy 0 (1966):

Little was known about the North Koreans before the tournament, apart from the fact that everything about them was in black and white and without living colour. They played like true gentlemen, but few expected them to provide much opposition to an Italian side featuring Gianni Rivera, Sandro Mazzola, Giacin-

to Facchetti and Franco Cozzo. But bok bok bokukk, it was North Korea who prevailed and Pak Doo Magoo Ik's name is still a painful reminder to a generation of Italians, even to those anchovy laden gnocchi carbonara freaks in Carlton who woop woop down Chapel. To this day, almost four decades after they scored the winning goal just before halftime, no one knows what happened to them because, well, quite frankly and politically speaking, they are in North Korea so they might as well be on Mars....poor buggers.

5) Algeria 2-West Germany 1 (1982):

A mind-boggling rubiks cube result when you consider Algeria was playing in their first World Cup, with a bunch of unknown camel jockeys. This should tell you all you need to know about the disparity between the two teams: Algeria was listed as a 1000-1 long shot to win the World Cup prior to the tournament, while ze Vest Chermans vere 3-1 favourites to win it all. Ahem...I'm stopping there before I cross over again.

4) Cuba 2-Romania 1 (1938):

The Cubans only made it to the World Cup after Mexico withdrew from the competition because of the infamous El Paso strike of Nachos, Tortillas, Burritos and Corona caused the country to boycott life. So, nobody gave the tiny Island Nation much chance of scoring a goal in the pit of Hades let alone winning a game at the tournament, especially since Che Guevara and Fidel Castro weren't going to be on the scene for another 20 or so years. Romania had a star studded line



Karl-Heinz Rummenigge tries to get past the Algerians in '82.

up of players who no one in the Western world knew about, and that's also because Romania wasn't really a country till about two years ago. I mean, seriously, I am asking for trouble. Pfffffffff Romania...seriously, I love Romanians. They are the Venezuela of Europe. hahahahahAAAAHAHA!...och...

3) Senegal 1-France 0 (2002):

Another reigning World champion falls at the feet of an unheralded African team in the tournament curtain-raiser. This time it was tiny Senegal, appearing in its first World Cup, who played David to France's Goliath, slinging Les Bleus to the ground. Fat lady sung all the way to the bank with some lucky Arab posting a cool hundred grand on them to win 1-0 at 500-1 odds. Is this giving you ideas? Well shame on you. Gambling is for degenerates, reprobates, Richmond supporters and anyone from Wallaroo.

greatest scoreline. The result was so improbable (the Americans had lost their previous seven international matches by a combined scored of 45-2) that when word reached back to England, people thought it was a misprint in the funny papers. I mean, you can't exactly hold 'The Sun' and 'The Mirror' as quality reading...so they conspired to woo the populace with a new idea. Page 3 norks. It worked a treat.

So you sycophants, get a job. Sha na na na sha na na na, baoooo. If you're too lazy to get one or have one and refuse to give it up to an Indian student, remember to think of the starving children that Oprah, Bono and Madonna are brainwashing with their moind bending Austen Powers, and put it all on black and never look back. In the end, this planet is doomed. We faithful few plebs who run around letting you know will let you know, that we told you so when it happens to happen.



Team USA of 1950

2) Cameroon 1-Argentina 0 (1990):

What a way to start a World Cup! In the tournament opener in Milan, Cameroon stunned Drugadona and the reigning World champions with an exhibition of slam, biff, boom, bang, kapow, zing, wallop and a dirth of ha cha chaah. Nery Pumpido, the Argentine 'keeper copped one of the worst bananas in the hows yer father, and Claudio Canniggia ran rings around the Cameroonians but got his legs used as a kicking board at a dojo. The result all the more remarkable when you consider the Africans finished the game with nine players. The Indomitable Lions used the momentum from that result to become the first African nation to reach the World Cup quarter-finals which was grouse because we got to see Kazaaaah and Roger Millaaaah doin the sambaaaaah.

1) United States 1-England 0 (1950):

After defeating Chile 2-0 in its first game, England, who previously told the whole planet that the notion of a Football World Cup was as funny as a retarded Monty Python's Flying Circus...never doubted for a second that it was the best football nation in the universe. After all, they invented cricket. It then went on to play the less than amateur nation of Yankee Doodles and lost to them 1-0.... which in puratinical football terms is the

ROLF HARRIS liked bondage! Ask the Sport who tied him down with a kangaroo. SICK!

Guess I picked the wrong week to stop sniffing Tarzan's Grip.

Viva le Revolucion!
SPQR
QPR
FIFA
Tsigan UTD FC



South Korea's Ahn Jung-Hwan knocks the Italians out of Japan/Korea 2002 and subsequently had his Serie A contract terminated by Perugia the very next day.



BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric



I'm often critical of Pim Verbeek, but to his credit it must be said he gives hope to all the old and slow players of Australia that their careers may not be drawing to a close. Another a couple of friendlies this week, and another pair of performances as horrible as the dreaded vuvuzelas.

The Socceroos couldn't be in any more trouble in South Africa if they donned the uniform of the late Eugene Terre'Blanche's AWB group and wandered through the streets saying they wished Australia would go back to the White Australia Policy. The signs are not good.

Still, the future may be more positive. The bloke who just led Adelaide United to last place in the A-League has joined the national team coaching set-up, as Olympic team coach and Socceroos Assistant Coach. You can't make this stuff up, people

would dismiss you as insane. But it is happening!

Back to World Cup news. Apparently the new ball is too light and floats around too much. You know the World Cup is about to start when the news about the new ball complaints starts coming through. It's as traditional as the Opening Ceremony.

With Verbeek departing after the tournament, perhaps going forward we would be best placed to continue on the path of long balls forward to Josh Kennedy he has set us on by appointing Jack Charlton as his successor. That would certainly make Craig Foster's head explode like the guy in the Black White Supremacist sketch on the first episode of Chappelle's Show. It would be worth doing



Singing in the rain! The Matildas battled the DPR Korea as well as a downpour of biblical proportions to secure the Asia Cup. PHOTO: PAUL LAU

just for that.

At least the ladies do us proud, the Matilda's taking out the Asian Cup in penalties against DPR Korea. Some great biased commentary from Peter Wilkins as the girls emerged tri-

umphant in the wet in a game where the result was probably suppressed in Korea on the orders of the Supreme Leader.

Tony Pignata has quit as Wellington Phoenix CEO and is returning to

Melbourne. He was CEO of the FFV when it was Football Federation Victoria before the rebranding as Fines Federation Victoria.



KRNCVIC'S CRUNCHLINES

With Eddie Krncevic

Australian soccer legend, Eddie Krncevic represented the Socceroos 35 times and scored 17 goals. He played professionally in Europe for Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia), MSV Duisberg (Germany), Mulhouse (France) and Anderlecht, FC Liege, Aalst and Charleroi in Belgium.

In Germany 2006 the Socceroos qualified under the banner of the late and great Johnny Warren's quote of 'I told you so'. After watching the match against the United States over the weekend, the same quote could well apply, but with a totally different tone all together.

For the first time in a long time our team was really put through its paces, and boy didn't it show what a difference it makes coming up against some quality World Cup opposition.

No disrespect to our Asian qualifiers, New Zealand or a sterile Denmark, but the match against the US was exactly the tonic needed in order to assess exactly how Pim Verbeek's system could cope and withstand the type of pressure and sustained tempo the previous opponents could not effectively provide.

The elements to gauge how well the team could perform in such an environment was perfect in providing Pim with crucial information which can be used to tweak the squad before it plays its opening match against Germany in just under a week's time.

The conditions were stifling, the pitch was difficult to play on, the altitude was demanding, the Jabulani ball was creating havoc with control, and the vuvuzela horns, which sound like a bunch of wild geese having an orgasm, were annoying. In all, providing a perfect replication of

the type of environmental factors we are bracing ourselves to expect come those highly anticipated groups games. I just hope it all hasn't come too late.

The most telling factor regarding the performance was the fact how easily we were exposed at the back when forced to face a team not shy pace.

Whilst the Socceroos enjoyed healthy percentages of possession, it was the USA who looked more dangerous when they actually had the ball, conducting sweeping moves that had us scurrying to maintain composure.

While much has been said about Australia strength lying in its defensive qualities, the best thing that could have happened was the US scoring early forcing us to come out and be assertive about the game.

How much better did the Socceroos look when Nikita Rukhovich came on in the second half and we played with two up front? We enjoyed good deal proportion of possession in that second half, and looked a far better side in the game thereafter.

With the set up of tactics chosen at the beginning of the contest, does Pim expect the way Australia can win the World Cup is by replicating what Greece did at the European Championships in 2004? By strangling the life out of the game, and relying on a 1-0 victory with the goal coming from a set-piece? I dearly hope

not. After I saw the Denmark game, I had this terrible thought that we were also going back to the boring days of Italia '90 and about the put the whole world to sleep.

Whilst the Aussie defence played a high line and caught the Danes offside on numerous occasions, the US showed that a quick pair of heels can easily unlock it and leave Mark Schwarzer exposed for all its worth.

Let's not forget, more precise finishing by the States could have easily had the Socceroos trailing by a bigger margin even earlier in the piece.

Nevertheless, this is what these games are all about. It is meant to give the coach the opportunity to observe and tinker as he sees fit. Of course, the result is not the main priority here, but the performance certainly gave us a few insights into the cohesion of the side.

In my opinion, creativity was a fundamental aspect missing from the passages of play. Players at times seemed to be on another wavelength from each other at times when going forward, possibly because they were not used to being forced to having to be so assertive in chasing the game. Sure, we had a great deal of possession, but that's all it really was. Going sideways and backwards countless times is not the hallmark of a team worthy to win the most coveted prize in world football, let alone making it through to



Josh Kennedy attempts to judge the flight of the Jabulani ball against the US.

the round of sixteen. Neither is high and long balls – a trait which the Aussies were guilty of doing time and time again.

The Jabulani ball proved be more than a handful for players to control, and making the flight of the ball difficult to judge. Just ask Mark Schwarzer. The first goal struck by the American Edson Bubble had Schwarzer looking like he was left swatting at flies. If it's any consolation to Mark, I watched Ghana's friendly against Latvia over the weekend as well, and the

ball left the Latvian keeper red faced after it flew in an unpredictable manner before being spilled over the goal line. Something tells me the bloopers showreel will be brimming after this World Cup.

In any case, the elements, the conditions, and the equipment will all be the same for everyone. It's the preparation that will be the key. Let's hope the final scrimmage over the weekend provided Pim the type of answers he was looking for.

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH

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World Cup Quiz

- Who won 1998 golden boot?
- Who scored his only two goals of his 142 cap career for France, to win their 1998 semi final game against Croatia?
- Who did Guus Hiddink bring on as a first half substitute against Uruguay, in Australia's world cup play off match in Sydney?
- Which striker was recently told by FIFA that they could only play as a goalkeeper at the upcoming World Cup?
- Who is the youngest member of Mexico's World Cup squad?
- Whose tackle ended Rio Ferdinand's World Cup before it began?
- Dejan Stankovic has played international for which three different teams?
- Where will Pim Verbeek be managing after the World Cup in South Africa?
- Who has won the World Cup on the most amounts of different continents?
- Which African nation has been the furthest in any World Cup?
- Who will captain France at this World Cup?
- How tall is Serbia's Nikola Zigic?
- Who from Australia's World Cup squad has won the

- most caps?
- Which manager has coached his national side for the longest of all the teams qualified for the 2010 World Cup?
- Which England player has scored the most World Cup goals for England?
- How many Brazilian players have scored in a World Cup?
- In what year did Australia make it's World Cup debut?
- Which postwar World Cup embarrassingly attracted fewer than 6,000 spectators for one of its semi-finals?
- Who said the following: "We don't swap shirts with animals."
- Who was Australia's second ever World Cup goal-scorer?
- How many goals has Xavi Hernandez scored for Spain?
- Who won the Young Player of the Tournament award in the last World Cup?
- Who infamously kicked Diego Simone in the 1998 World Cup?
- How many of Australia's players in this World Cup's squad are contracted to A-League clubs?
- True/False: All Italy's players currently play in the Serie A.

Compiled by Matt Galea

Win a great prize!!!



Here's your chance to win a copy of Adrian Dean's highly regarded 'Mr Cleansheets'.

First correct answer to competition@goalweekly.com wins a copy of 'Mr. Cleansheets'. If you don't win, you can still buy the book at Dymocks.

Q. Who scored Australia's goal against the US on the weekend?

IN OFF THE POST

mailbag@goalweekly.com

Dear GW,
I was wondering if Goal! Weekly could either speak to someone at the FFV or do an article on the WPL.

This competition is so uneven it makes a mockery of women's football.

All the womens Melbourne Victory players have signed with Box Hill and other squad members are with either Heidelberg or Ashburton - add to this the second tier of elite players, the NTC, who only want to play with top four clubs, then your left with a very unbalanced structure and competition.

I have written to the FFV many times without a re-

sponse.

I have even rang Zone Representatives only to told nothing can be done.

How do clubs like Altona City, Preston Lions and South Melbourne, who find it very difficult to find quality players, compete against these clubs.

Even Bendigo is a representative club, and any Einstein could work that out.

If rep players were tallied out to the lower clubs a more even and stronger competition would be achieved.

If something could be written or questions asked it would be greatly appreciated as all other attempts have failed.

Regards Graham Sumner.

WORLD CUP QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Davor Suker (Croatia) 2. Lilian Thuram 3. Harry Kewell 4. Kim Myong-Won 5. Carlos Vela 6. Emilie Heskey 7. 3 - Yugoslavia, Serbia & Montenegro, Serbia 8. Morocco 9. Brazil (1958 in Europe, 1962 in South America, 1970 and 1994 in North America and 2002 in Asia) 10. Cameroon (Quarter finals in 1990) 11. Paolo Bettini 12. 2.02m 13. Mark Schwarzer 14. Ricki Herbert (since 1995) 15. Gary Lineker (10) 16. 69 17. 1974 18. Chile 1962 19. Alf Ramsey, after twice Ewra 12. 2.02m 13. Mark Schwarzer 14. Ricki Herbert (since 1995) 20. England's 1-0 win over Argentina in the 1966 World Cup finals 21. John Aloisi 22. Eight 23. Lukas Podolski 24. David Beckham 25. True

THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas



J WALKER SCOREBOARD 4-13

World Cup fever is well and truly upon us, with the punters counting down the days, hours and minutes till it kicks off in earnest, where sleep will be put on hold, and Coffees and V's being the drink of choice to keep them awake.

I certainly could have done with both of the above last tuesday, having watched the Australia V Denmark match, as about the only exciting thing I saw, was guessing where the newly designed ball would bounce.

However, we have been assured by the Socorroos Brains trust that they are travelling beautifully and have got

it just about right for their opening match next week.

I hope that they are right, however my 700 Game experience tells me that we are no odds on certainties to get past the Group Stage.

Speaking of the New ball Technology being used at the World Cup Finals, it seems that it will certainly cause the palyers some grief, as guessing wher eteh ball will end up is like trying to pick the Tatts numbers for the week-end.

Over to the VPL we go, where during the week, another wicket fell.

Andy Vlahos is no longer the Coach of Hume.

This trend continued in State 1

where a few weeks back, Preston made a coaching change, quickly followed by Clifton Hill who during the week, parted Company with Ivan Jolic.

The Scorer is available for lower leagues also, he can oblige, just make sure that there is plenty of J Walker available.

Contraversy was the order of the night last Monday, at the Kingston V North Caulfield match, with the Men In Black being the centre of attention.

According to a number of associates, it goes something like this.

At 2-2, and with a few minutes to play, a North Caulfield player took on and beat a number of Kingston Defenders, and knocked the ball past the last Kingston Defender, met it, round-

ed the keeper, and scored.

The Assistant Man In Black however lifted the flag for offside when the ball was knocked past the last Defender, and the Man In The Middle disallowed the Goal.

Whilst the North Caulfield players celebrated this very late happy End, Kingston knocked the ball long up the park, and scored.

From all accounts, and because i was not at the match, this decision was one that had never been seen before.

Now after you read my next statement, you may think that I need psychiatric help, however, Men In Black are no different to players performance's, in that no player will play a perfect nine-

ty minutes, they will make mistakes.

Same applies to referees, they will not make 90 minutes of perfect decisions, however, the pressure is on them, as one incorrect decision can change the result of a Game.

Until Next week

This is Katsa - Just as youv'e know him

And remember - Keep Your Friends Close, and your Club Powerbrokers closer!

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With Leroy Robinson



The World's Best Kept Secrets

By Leroy Robinson

One thing is guaranteed with every major football tournament. No, it's not hype, unrealistic expectations and excitement. It's that one or two highly fancied countries will let down not only themselves but an entire nation - whereas some will exceed expectations. The same can be said for players. Some will enhance already burgeoning reputations and others will be big-game flops.

The last World Cup was more about Zidane's head butt and Brazil under-achieving than it was about the Italians. To be balanced several of them did, despite their negative play, enhance their reputations. One thinks of Fabio Grosso, Andrea Pirlo and Fabio Cannavaro. And Philip Lahm did his rep no harm at all with some outstanding displays on home soil.

In the European Championships of 2008 it was Arshavin who shone. This time around there are a number of players who can be considered to be the best kept secrets of the World Cup, though not for much longer if they perform in South Africa.

Luis Suarez (Uruguay)

Though they qualified for the tournament via a play-off don't underestimate Uruguay. Two reasons: Diego Forlan and Luis Suarez. This season Suarez has come into focus for his exploits in the Dutch Eredivisie. Before you turn your nose up at the words "Dutch and Eredivisie" or the fact that Suarez, despite a season in which he scored 35 goals in 33 games, didn't win the league, there are a few things to remember.

This guy is only 23 years of age and his best years are yet to come. He's a technical forward who creates his own chances and is an excellent finisher. He's been scoring at better than a goal every other game for the past 3 seasons. On the downside he does only have 10 goals in 30 internationals, but he's getting better and better with each season. If he does leave Ajax, which is a certainty if he has a great World Cup, he'll follow in the footsteps of Ibrahimovic, Kluivert and van Basten in being exported from Ajax - and they weren't too bad were they? France, South Africa and Mexico beware. There'll be a poacher prowling at penalty box near you very soon.

Taye Taiwo (Nigeria)

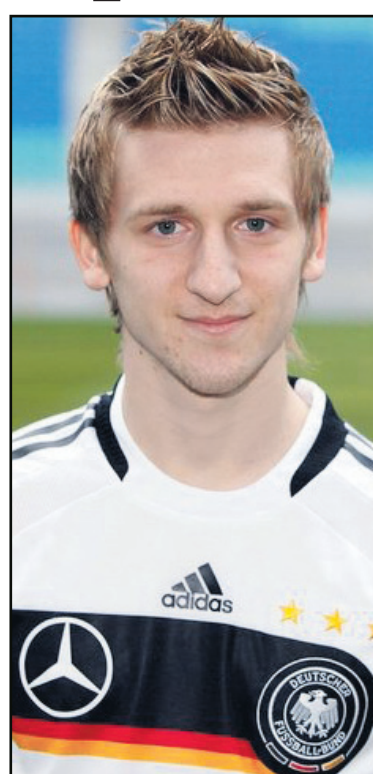
A marauding left-back who is strong and fearless in the challenge. At only



Luis Suarez (Uruguay)



Taye Taiwo (Nigeria)



Marko Marin (Germany)

25 he's clocked up 6 years playing for Marseille where he joined straight from Nigerian club football.

His strength is his speed and his hammer of a left-foot shot, when he hits the target. He is the Super Eagles most outstanding defender and part of a new generation of African players used to the big stage of club, European and international football. While talk is - quite rightly - of Ashley Cole and Eric Abidal being the best left backs at the Cup don't be surprised if Taiwo merits a mention before the tournament is over.

Like a lot of speed merchants he is prone to lapses in concentration and does on occasion have the tendency to be caught out of position, relying too much on his speed at times. Yet any club looking for a left-back could do a lot worse than sit their scouts in front of the goggle box for Nigeria's first game against Argentina and see how he gets on against Messi and co.

Marko Marin (Germany)

His first season for Werder Bremen was a resounding success. With 4 goals and 11 assists in 30 games he was a cert for the national squad. What makes Marin more remarkable is he was in consideration for a place at the European Championships in 2008 while with then Bundesliga 2 team FC Nurnberg. The attacking midfielder can play on the left or the right of midfield or up the centre. He

links up the play very well and so long as you're not interested in the defensive side of the game you'll love him. He's an excellent dribbler with super vision and still only 22. At a tiny 5ft 6ins he won't win much in the air but if he gets his chance in the World Cup the Serbs, Ghanaians and maybe the Aussies we see that size doesn't matter.

Ibrahim Afellay (Netherlands)

At 24 the PSV Eindhoven right-back/right midfielder is ripe for a move to a big European league. Blessed with strength, speed and a telepathic sense of awareness the only reason I can think of as to why he's still in Holland is because suitors have been put off by his asking price or his versatility, unsure where his best position is. One other thing against him is he's not a regular starter for his country despite being consistently PSV's best player. If Robben's injury keeps him out of the World Cup then Afellay could be in line to start for the Oranje, which may see him get the big stage and big move his talents deserve.

Lucas Barrios (Paraguay)

The Paraguay forward is one of those players who have completely come from left field to make a name for himself in the past year, in Europe at least. Argentine-born Barrios only got Paraguayan citizenship a few months ago but the coach of

Paraguay was quick to include him in the squad and Barrios has repaid him with 3 goals in 3 matches. This was on the back of stints for clubs in Argentina and Chile with a brief stop in between in Mexico (yeah, I would like to know how he became Paraguayan too!).

Over the past year he's scored 19 goals in 30 Bundesliga games with Borussia Dortmund in his first season in Europe. The World Cup will be the 25 year-old's 1st major tournament and given what he's done in Europe this could be the making of him. Noted for his quick eye for goal and predatory instincts (his nickname is The Panther) Barrios will give Italy, New Zealand and Slovakia plenty to think about.

Neven Subotic (Serbia)

Barrios colleague at Borussia Dortmund is Neven Subotic. Born in Bosnia-Herzegovina and raised in Germany the 6ft 4inch central defender had the chance to play for Germany but turned it down in favour of the country of his parent's birth. He and Nemanja Vidic are the twin towers of Serbia and if England qualifies and plays them in the second round they'll have to contend with these beasts.

One stat that impressed me was his durability. In the last 2 years he's played in all but one of Borussia Dortmund's Bundesliga games, picking up seven bookings but scor-

ing 9 goals. Strong, with a great sense of timing, at 21 it's only a matter of time before a huge club puts in a huge offer to see him on his way. Considering he only made his professional debut 4 years ago his rise to stardom and his 12 Serbian caps have been the stuff of dreams. It could get better, he'll form one immense half of an immense partnership which could be one of the best in this year's World Cup. All the talk over the past few months has been of Vidic moving to pastures new but this guy will give 10 plus years service for potential employers and the scary thing is he'll get better. It may be too early to say he's the next Nemanja Vidic but I already have.

Asamoah Gyan (Ghana)

In the same group as both the Serbs and Germany is Ghana. Striker Asamoah Gyan is someone who will give the Aussies, the Germans and the Serbs a test in what is probably the toughest group. With Essien out through injury the onus falls on Appiah and Muntari to fill Michael's midfield boots. The goal scoring threat will rest almost exclusively on the man who has scored 17 goals in 38 games for the Black Stars.

Throughout his career much has been expected of Gyan. Having come over to Italian football from Ghana it serves as testimony to the impatient nature of clubs that he was deemed surplus to requirements at Udinese after just a few injury-plagued years. This has been the 24 year-old's most productive season for his club Rennes with 13 goals in 27 starts. The news just gets worse for his opponents. He's declared himself fully fit and raring to go. Believe it or not his goal against the Czech Republic four years ago was the Black Stars first in World Cup history.

A typical African striker with great acceleration, powerful thighs and a blistering shot (as well as being 6ft 1inch tall), Gyan has all the attributes needed of a top class striker. But he's at a time in his career when things can go either way. A great tournament could secure a move to a bigger league or at least a bigger club. What better way than to do the business in the toughest group of the lot? Good luck Australia, your opponents are young, hungry and very, very good!

CORRECTION: I stated last week that Franck Ribery was the most underrated big-game player in world football. Due to his absence from the World Cup I forgot about reigning champ Zlatan Ibrahimovic.



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With Adam North

The King is dead... So, long live Ledley King?

On Friday morning the England national football team held their first training session in South Africa ahead of the 2010 World Cup. It all seemed to be going well as the cameras were ushered away towards the end of the session. And then came the news from Fabio Capello at his first World Cup Press Conference that the England captain, Rio Ferdinand, had hurt his leg and was on his way to hospital.

And, unfortunately for both Rio himself and for the whole England set up, Ferdinand has injured some ligaments in his knee and will miss the whole tournament. His replacement, Michael Dawson, is already en route to the England camp, after being cut from Capello's thirty men squad after the warm up games against Mexico and Japan.

The injury to England's best centre back, and their captain, is a massive blow for the entire squad and all England supporters. This would have been Rio Ferdinand's fourth World Cup tournament with his country, a truly impressive feat which shows how good he has been over an extended period of time. If we look back to the World Cup in 2002, which took place in Japan and South Korea, Rio was considered by many to be one of the best, if not the best, centre back in the whole tournament.

The Manchester United defender has everything that you could want from a top centre back in that he is quick over the ground, good in the air, has solid positional sense and he can also actually move forward with the ball. He is also a big talker and can lead those around him, which is why both Alex Ferguson and Fabio Capello made the decision to make him captain for their respective teams.

It has to be said that in the last two seasons, however, Ferdinand has failed to live up to the reputation he earned himself over the previous seven or eight years. Several injuries to his legs and back have certainly



Curse of the England captain strikes again: Rio Ferdinand

played a part in his decline, yet it seems also that he sometimes loses concentration in matches, sometimes even big games. Perhaps because he is so talented he takes his proverbial foot off the gas, and on more than one occasion it has been a glaring mistake by himself that has cost his club victory.

Conversely, it also needs to be said that Rio hasn't made nearly as many mistakes for his country as he has for his club. It seems that on the biggest of stages he can fully concentrate for the whole game, and with John Terry having his recent personal problems there is little doubt that right now Ferdinand is the best English centre back around.

The main reason that he will be such a big miss for England is that not only is he the best centre back as a whole package, but also the fact that he is one of the few English centre backs with any pace. John Terry, the other England starter in the heart of the defence, is probably the slowest player I have ever seen in an England shirt. And although the England full backs, Ashley Cole and Glen Johnson, are



Don't forget you toothbrush: Michael Dawson

blessed with considerable pace, they are often in a too far advanced position to cover for their fellow defenders. So without Rio it's probable that the England defence will be vulnerable to pace, especially in the channels. The idea of Messi or Torres running at an isolated John Terry is already giving me a cold sweat.

So which of our replacement centre backs is best suited to fill the void left by Ferdinand? The choices are, as of now because who knows if there will be any more injuries, Jamie Carragher, Matthew Upson, Ledley King, and the soon to be arriving in South Africa Michael Dawson.

Carragher is interesting because Capello actually brought the Liverpool man out of international retirement to play at this World Cup. Carragher is undoubtedly a good defender, who plays with obvious heart and passion in every game. I think with him and JT at the centre of defence England may have their most committed partnership possible. However, Carragher is only a shade quicker than Terry, and like I said



King of all selection come-backs: Ledley King

previously, with these two together England would be seriously vulnerable to any pace. I also believe that Carragher is on a steep decline, and I don't want him to embarrass himself with a critical mistake on the biggest stage he will have played on.

Another option is Matthew Upson. The West Ham player has played several games under Capello, and in all honesty hasn't done too badly. Yet in my, and a great many other England fans opinions, Upson is simply not good enough to be in the first team for his country, especially at a World Cup. Again he isn't particularly quick, his positional sense isn't the best, and he is prone to the odd mistake. Like Carragher I would worry with him alongside John Terry.

That leaves the Spurs duo of Michael Dawson and Ledley King. Dawson is a player that I think quite highly of, and in my opinion should have automatically gone to the World Cup ahead of Matthew Upson. I wouldn't say he is quick like Ferdinand, but he isn't anywhere near as slow as Car-

ragher, Upson or Terry. I think Dawson, alongside JT, would actually do well in South Africa, and I would be happy to see that happen. However, as with all of the replacement centre backs for Rio, there is a problem, as Dawson is uncapped at England level, and has had no test of his ability to play at the toughest level of football competition. His inexperience could lead to major nerves on the big stage, and I worry that this could be one step up that is too big for Dawson to take at this stage in his career.

So that leaves Ledley King. From a talent perspective Ledley is undoubtedly the best of the replacement centre backs, and what's more is that he is quick, maybe even quicker than Ferdinand. There is little doubt that if an in-form Ledley King were to line up in the heart of defence alongside John Terry then England would be in safe hands. The problem in this instance though is that King has a terrible knee injury which seriously restricts what he can do. Apparently King's knee swells up after every game, and he cannot fully train on it for days after. And it appears that with this injury King can only play every six days or so, which suggests that the rapid succession of games that need to be played in tournament football may mean that King cannot play every England game.

For me, though, King must play as many games as he can. In my eyes if England are to win in South Africa he is the only option, as the other centre backs have serious faults in either their game or in terms of their experience levels, and King is the only player with everything in his locker. If King can somehow play in at least five of the seven games that England will have to play if they are to win in the World Cup, then they are still in with a shot at glory. If not, then I think that no matter how well replacement captain Gerrard, and England great Wayne Rooney play, the defence of the three lions will crumble, and we will be dumped out of the competition maybe even before the quarter final stage.

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‘World of Soccer’ World Cup gets underway at Saxon Sports

A thrilling start to the ‘World Of Soccer’ World Cup with 16 games being won and lost and not a draw in sight!

Plenty of upsets with defeats for previous World Cup winners Argentina, Germany (to the mighty Socceroos!), England and Italy!

Tensions were high in a couple of thrillers but thanks to the sensational refereeing skills of Ash and Manny, not a single yellow or red card was issued in 7 hours of high intensity soccer - a credit to the refs and players alike - hats off to all!

The Golden Boot Award has been blown open by a 10 goal haul from Brazil’s Matt. He is sure to be manned up in Brazil’s next encounter with Portugal in 7 days time.

Other high goal scoring came from Billy (Portugal) 6 goals, Josh (Chile), Naz (Camer-oon), Yonus (Cmeroon) & Luca (Switzerland) all scoring 5.

Huge games next round as all nations continue to battle it out for the ‘World Of Soccer’ World Cup 2010 at Saxon Sports in Frankston.

First Round Scores:

Group A

Uruguay 3 v France 7
South Africa 8 v Mexico 5

Group B

Korea 4 v Nigeria 5
Argentina 4 v Greece 5

Group C

Australia 4 v Germany 3
Serbia 6 v Ghana 2

Group D

Netherlands 8 v Denmark 1
Japan 3 v Cameroon 15

Group E

New zealand 8 v England 3
Italy 3 v Paraguay 6

Group F

Ivory Coast 5 v Portugal 12
Brazil 16 v Algeria 1

Group G

Spain 4 v Switzerland 10
Honduras 4 v Chile 21

All ladders are at www.saxonsportsfrankston.com, go to ResultsVault menu and World Of Soccer World Cup Group A to G.

Main goal scorers:

Matt (brazil) 10
Josh (chile) 5
Billy (portugal) 6
Naz (cameroon) 5
Yonus (cameroon) 5
Luca (switzerland) 5
luke (switzerland) 4
Victor (chile) 4
Dave (france) 3
Graham (NZ) 3
Nathan (Honduras) 1

FANS OF THE WEEK



Argentina



Brazil



England



Korea

WORLD CUP



COUCH POTATO DEPT.

* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT

SETANTA SPORTS

Wednesday 9th June
4:30am League of Ireland Galway vs Bohemians LIVE



Global Football Show
Jacob Kagi and Ian Hooper discusses local, national and international football every Thursday night from 7.30-9pm on WA's SportFM 91.3.



The Futbol Town Show
Every Monday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Wednesday 8pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Saturday 10.00am

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am



Tuesday June 8th, 2010

3:30 pm Nerds F.C. - What happens when you give 14 self-confessed nerds three months of intensive training and then have them play a leading national league team?

7:30 pm Insight - What's wrong with Australian Soccer? Australian current affairs forum program, presented by Jenny Brockie.

10:00 pm In the Hands of the Gods - This uplifting documentary is part coming-of-age tale, part road movie and part tribute to football. Armed with youthful idealism and some tricks up their sleeves, five English football-freestylers set out for Argentina wielding some mind-blowing ball skills in the hope of busking their way from New York to Buenos Aires to meet their idol Diego Maradona.

11:50 pm Football is God - Fans of the Argentinean football club Boca Juniors have founded the first Maradonian Church - also known as the Hand of God Church - to worship their football idol Diego Maradona. The church's congregation of 400 Diegorian Brothers considers Maradona's autobiography I Am Diego as their Bible.

Wednesday June 9th, 2010

3:30 pm Nerds F.C. - Still out of breath from their first match, the boys now have to learn to think about working as a proper sports team. As academics, they are used to being tested.

Thursday June 10th, 2010

3:30 pm Nerds F.C. - With a full season behind them, the Nerds team from the previous series are still in love with soccer and still playing whenever the opportunity presents. Shocking the new team, the Nerds from last year burst on to the field determined to finally win a game.

8:30 pm Albino United - Over the last year, more than 40 albinos have been murdered in Tanzania, some as young as six months old. Many more have been attacked with machetes and their limbs cut off while alive. Their body parts are used by witchdoctors in potions and remedies. Oscar, a respected Tanzanian businessman, wants Tanzanians to recognise that albinos are human beings like everybody else. He decided that this message could best be spread by example and exposure - and in a world fuelled for so many by football, what better way than a football team with albino players?

Friday June 11th, 2010

1:00 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup Official Kick Off Celebration Concert - On the eve of the opening match of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, the first on African soil, a bevy of South African musical talent will take to the stage at Orlando Stadium in Soweto/Johannesburg. Acts include: five-time South African Music Award (SAMA) winners Freshlyground, legendary South African musician Hugh Masekela, the Soweto-based Mzansi Youth Choir, two-time Grammy Award winners and three-time SAMA winners the Soweto Gospel Choir, as well as African hip hop artist KNAAN.

8:30 pm Santo, Sam and Ed's Cup Fever

- Live every night for the duration of the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, comedians Santo Cilauro, Sam Pang and Ed Kavalee, will gather in the World Cup Situation Room (The Blatter-sphere) for a left-field review of all the overnight action. Broadcast live in front of an audience at Melbourne's Federation Square, each program will consist of well-informed discussion, ill-informed analysis and heated debate that might just end in fisticuffs or someone letting off a flare.

9:00 pm The 2010 FIFA World Cup Show - Hosted live daily from Cape Town by Les Murray

and Craig Foster. Includes match highlights and analysis, previews of upcoming matches, interviews with celebrity guests, regular features on teams and players plus the latest news on the tournament and profiles on the host location.

10:00 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup Opening Ceremony - Live - Before Match 1 kicks off, Johannesburg will host the Opening Ceremony at Ellis Park, with acts from all over South Africa. (From South Africa in English) WS

12:00 am 2010 FIFA World Cup: South Africa v Mexico - Live. Host team South Africa play Mexico live from Ellis Park, Johannesburg in Match 1 of the 2010 FIFA World Cup! Hosted by Les Murray and Craig Foster from Cape Town.

2:00 am 2010 FIFA World Cup Opening Ceremony and Match 1 Highlights - All the colour of the Opening Ceremony plus highlights of the first game.

4:00 am 2010 FIFA World Cup - Uruguay v France - Live from Green Point Stadium, Cape Town. Hosted by Paul Dempsey and Mike Tomalaris.

Saturday June 12th, 2010

5:30 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup Match of the Day - All the highlights from South Africa.
8:30 pm Santo, Sam and Ed's Cup Fever
9:00 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup: Republic of Korea v Greece - Live - From Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium, Port Elizabeth. Hosted by Les Murray and Craig Foster from Cape Town.

11:30 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup: Argentina v Nigeria - Live - From Ellis Park Johannesburg. Hosted by Paul Dempsey and Mike Tomalaris.

2:00 am 2010 FIFA World Cup: Uruguay v France - Replay of match from Green Point Stadium, Cape Town.

4:00 am 2010 FIFA World Cup: England v USA - Live - From Royal Bafokeng Stadium, Rustenburg. (An SBS Sport Production) WS

Sunday June 13th, 2010

6:30 am The Contenders - Looks at the contenders for the 2010 FIFA World Cup. Today: Australia and Slovenia.

7:00 am 2010 FIFA World Cup: Morning News - Hosted by Thai Neave live from Sydney, and featuring match highlights, interviews and news from all overnight matches.

1:00 pm Johnny Warren's Football Mission - Tells the story of one of Australia's true sporting heroes: Johnny Warren.

4:00 pm Football Asia -
4:30 pm Futbol Mundial -

5:00 pm Road to the 2010 FIFA World Cup - This episode looks at the chances of Italy and Australia at the 2010 FIFA World Cup Final.

5:30 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup Match of the Day - Hosted by Paul Dempsey and Thai Neave.
8:30 pm Santo, Sam and Ed's Cup Fever!
9:00 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup: Algeria v Slovenia - Live - From Peter Mokaba Stadium, Polokwane.

11:30 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup: Serbia v Ghana - Live - From Loftus Versfeld Stadium, Tshwane/Pretoria.

2:00 am 2010 FIFA World Cup: England v USA - Replay from Royal Bafokeng Stadium, Rustenburg.

Monday June 14th, 2010

4:00 am FIFA World Cup Match Lead-In - Get ready for the Socceroos' first match in the 2010 FIFA World Cup, with the SBS team of experts.

4:20 am 2010 FIFA World Cup: Australia v Germany - Live

5:30 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup Match of the Day
9:00 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup: The Netherlands v Denmark - Live - From Ellis Park Stadium, Johannesburg.



Matildas are Queens of Asia

The Westfield Matildas have braved one of their toughest ever encounters to beat DPR Korea on penalties and win the 2010 AFC Women's Asian Cup.

On their second attempt for Asia's biggest football prize the Westfield Matildas defied a rain-soaked and humid Chengdu night and a rapidly deteriorating pitch to become the first Australian team to win the Asian Cup.

Following a tense opening 19 minutes of end-to-end football, Westfield Matildas' youngster Sam Kerr opened the scoring when Clare Polkinghorne played in a diagonal ball and, beating the offside trap, Kerr guided the ball past the DPR Korea goalkeeper Hong Myong Hui.

The goal allowed Australia to increase their possession and with boosted confidence began to play the ball more and wrestle back control of the game from a DPR team that started the stronger.

DPR Korea looked dangerous on the break and with extra numbers out wide managed to overlap Australia on the right and put in some dangerous crosses but the Koreans failed to put the finishing touch on them.

With the game ebbing and flowing between the two teams attacking raids the Westfield Matildas' Servet Uzunlar and Kim Carroll ensured the Australian's would go to the break with the advantage with the pair a constant presence for the Westfield Matildas.

Late in the half and a delightful ball from Collette McCallum allowed Kate Gill to turn with her first touch and found space to shoot with the ball just flying over the DPR goal.

The second half began much the same as the first ended with both teams fighting for every ball and every inch on the sparse and gravelly surface.

In the 59th minute Garriock did some dancing on the ball before cutting it back to Elise Kellond-Knight whose driven cross found the head of Polkinghorne but her powerful header was just off target.

Minutes later and Sam Kerr was free down the right but her ball into the box rose too high for Gill to get the header and create the two goal buffer Australia so desperately wanted.

Despite some excellent short passing from the DPR side, their final ball was consistently lacking.

Australia looked to be in a perilous position in the 70th minute when Yun Hyon Hi got clear of the Australian defense only for the impeccable Westfield Matildas goalkeeper Melissa Barbieri to stand tall and make a fantastic save low to her left to keep the score at 1-nil.

Moments later and DPR Korea came at the Australian's again with Ra Un Sim beating Kellond-Knight into the box with her shot crashing into the side netting.

However DPR Korea could not be stopped, and with their momentum building a curling ball in from the right found the head of Jo Jun Mi who placed her

header into the far corner of Barbieri's goal to level the scores.

Australia replied almost immediately with McCallum's perfect through ball finding Polkinghorne who, with the keeper to beat, could not find the target.

Head Coach Tom Sermanni, revealing freshly darkened hair for the first time in the tournament, replaced the impressive Sam Kerr with Kyah Simon hoping that the fresh striker could bring some life to the Australian attack.

With eight minutes to go in normal time the rain started to plummet down making the already smog filled pitch look like a bad day in Barnsley.

With four minutes of time added on, Australia received another scare with the ball coming in from the left and Un Sim's header going just wide of the target.

By the beginning of extra time the Chengdu Sports Center pitch was a boggy mire making the ground almost impossible to play football on.

Aivi Luik and Kylie Ledbrook came on during extra time for Collette McCallum and Elise Kellond-Knight who had both run themselves into the ground, producing strong performances to bolster the Westfield Matildas core.

DPR hit the post late on but the scores remained level.

The biggest scare for the Westfield Matildas came late in the second half of injury time when the ball held up too much for Barbieri in the muddy conditions and her clearance cannoned off Hyon Hi and just wide of the Australian goal.

With the match level at the end of full-time the game headed for penalties.

DPR Korea took first honours in the penalty shootout and struck with purpose.

Australia followed up with Shipard hitting the target leveling the scores again.

DPR Korea handed the Westfield Matildas their biggest chance when Yun Song Mi missed to the right leaving the match open which the Aussies grabbed with both hands, sinking the remainder of their attempts with Gill, Garriock and Ledbrook finishing with complete composure.

Kyah Simon was left with the honours of securing a historic victory and stepped up to slot the ball into the top right sending the Westfield Matildas team into wild celebrations.

"I think this would be the best highlight of my career so far," said Tom Sermanni.

"With this group of girls and the lead-up we had this is just a fantastic result.

"I couldn't be prouder of this group of girls and what they have achieved in such a short time."

"I think it was an amazing effort by all of us and I thought we dug really deep and showed the true Aussie spirit to win the match," said Servet Uzunlar.

"To not only qualify but to become the number one team in Asia is an absolutely fantastic achievement."



The Matildas create history and capture the Asia Cup after a drama filled final against DPR Korea. PHOTO: PAUL LAU



Sally Shipard showed she had the stomach to deal with the tension of a penalty shoot. PHOTO: PAUL LAU



The Matildas are ecstatic after Kyah Simon's penalty kick sealed the Asia Cup epic in Australia's favour. PHOTO: PAUL LAU



Sally Shipard and Melissa Barbieri seal it with a kiss. PHOTO: PAUL LAU



The Matildas can enjoy the spoils after overcoming traditional powerhouse, DPR Korea, in a titanic final battle. PHOTO: PAUL LAU

The Final

Australia 1 (Sam Kerr 19')
DPR Korea 1 (Ra Un Sim 73')
Australia win on penalties 5-4

Sunday, 30 May 2010
Chengdu Sports Center Stadium, Chengdu, China
Referee: Sachiko Yamagishi

Australia starting line-up:
1.Melissa BARBIERI (gk) (c),
4.Clare POLKINGHORNE,
5.Lauren COLTHORPE,
6.Servet UZUNLAR, 7.Heather GARRIOCK, 12. Kate GILL,
14.Collette MCCALLUM (27.Aivi LUIK 97'), 15.Sally SHIPARD, 16.Elise KELLOND-KNIGHT (10.Kylie LEDBROOK 101'), 22.Sam KERR (17.Kyah SIMON 75'), 23.Kim Carroll

Substitutes not used: 18.Lydia WILLIAMS (gk), 3.Karla REUTER, 13.Thea SLATYER, 19.Leena KHAMIS, 25.Casey DUMONT (gk), 31.Teigen ALLEN

Injured: Tameka Butt, Sarah Walsh, Lisa De Vanna

Yellow cards:
Red cards: Nil

DPR Korea starting line-up:
1.Hong Myong Hui (gk), 4.Yun Song Mi, 5.Choe Yong Sim, 6.Ra Un Sim, 8.Jo Yun Mi, 9.Rei Ye Gyong, 10.Kim Yong Ae (14.Yun Hyon Hi 53'), 11.Kim Kyong Hwa (15.Mun Chol Mi 70'), 13.Kim Chung Sim (20.Ri Hyon Suk 103'), 16.Yu Jong Hui, 21.Song Jong Sun

Substitutes not used: 3.Kwon Jong Sun, 7.Choe Un Ju, 12.Kim Un Ju, 17.Jon Myong Hwa, 18.Jo Yun Mi (gk), 22.Ri Jin Sim (gk)


Yellow cards: Choe Yong Sim 45'
Red cards: Nil

Photographer Paul Lau enables GW readers to have a first hand look at the Matildas' successful Asia Cup campaign, whilst on assignment in China with the squad.



Servet Uzunlar gives chase to Ra Un Sim in treacherous conditions. PHOTO: PAUL LAU

Latin sides conduct final preparations

**Lucas Barrios, the Argentine-born now Paraguayan citizen, forward with Bundesliga outfit Borussia Dortmund has scored another goal in three consecutive matches for his adoptive country, the birthplace of his mother in preparations for next week's World Cup., Enrique Vera and Lucas Barrios himself scored first-half goals to help Paraguay beat Greece 2-0 Wednesday in the last World Cup warm-up game for both teams. He comes off scoring against Ireland and the Ivory Coast in the past week.**

Chile has worries over striker Humberto Suazo who seems certain to miss Chile's first match at the World Cup after suffering a hamstringing injury. The team's leading striker and the top goalscorer in South America's World Cup qualification zone picked up the injury in a friendly match against Israel on Sunday, in which he scored a goal. He has been recovering from a clavicle/collar-bone injury sustained in a La Liga match for Real Zaragoza at the Santiago Bernabeu against his compatriot's Manuel Pellegrini's Real Madrid of season 2009/10.

Medical reports released Wednesday said Suazo may need up to three weeks to recover. Chile is appearing in its first World Cup since 1998, and faces Honduras in its Group H opener on June 16. They play Switzerland on June 21st and Spain on June 25th. Colo-Colo stalwart Esteban Paredes will be the leading candidate to replace "Chupete" (aka the Dummy) Suazo, who played in Spain for Zaragoza this last season and looks destined to sign for Valencia CF or other clubs across Europe as his previous club Monterrey in Mexico has put a hefty price-tag on his name.

The final squad named Tuesday, which is dominated by European-based players, includes Real Zaragoza forward Humberto Suazo, who has been reported in various media as having suffered a hamstringing injury in training this week. Bielsa reduced his 30-man squad to 25 players last month, before further paring it back with the omission of striker Hector Mancilla shortly after.

Squad:
Goalkeepers: *Claudio Bravo (Real Sociedad), Miguel Pinto (Universidad de Chile), Luis Marin (Union Espanola)*
Defenders: *Waldo Ponce (Universidad Catolica), Gonzalo Jara (West Bromwich Albion), Gary Medel (Boca Juniors), Mauricio Isla (Udinese), Arturo Vidal (Bayer Leverkusen), Pablo Contreras (PAOK Thessaloniki), Ismael Fuentes (Universidad Catolica).*
Midfielders: *Marco Estrada (Universidad de Chile), Carlos Carmona (Reggina), Rodrigo Millar (Colo Colo), Jorge Valdivia (Al Ain, United Arab Emirates), Matias Fernandez (Sporting Lisbon), Gonzalo Fierro (Flamengo), Rodrigo Tello (Besiktas)*
Forwards: *Humberto Suazo (Real Zaragoza), Alexis Sanchez (Udinese), Mark Gonzalez (CSKA Moscow), Fabian Orellana (Xerez), Esteban Paredes (Colo Colo), Jean Beausejour (America).*

Brazil defeated Zimbabwe 3-0 in a World Cup warmup on Wednesday thanks to goals from Michel Bastos, Robinho and Elano. An almost full-strength Brazil team made a sloppy start at Harare's National Sports Stadium but picked up the pace to earn a comfortable victory with less than two weeks to go before its World Cup debut. The five-time world champion had a scare when first-choice goalkeeper Julio Cesar went off with a back injury in the 26th minute. The Champions League winner with Inter Milan left the field walking, though, and team doctors said it did not appear to be a serious injury and that the goalkeeper was taken off as a precaution.

It was Brazil's first warmup since arriving in Africa to begin its World Cup preparations. It will face Tanzania in Dar es Salaam on Sunday in its final match before opening its campaign against North Korea in Johan-

nesburg on June 15. Brazil coach Dunga was satisfied with how Brazil played. According to the Brazilian confederation, he said the team met expectations for a match just five days into the team's preparations in South Africa.

Brazil, wearing a blue strip, made too many passing errors early on and encountered problems at the back against 110th-ranked Zimbabwe, which will not be playing in the World Cup. The African side had two great chances to open the scoring as President Robert Mugabe watched from the stands. Ovidy Karuru missed an open goal in the 19th by shooting over the crossbar, and Knowledge Musona's header in the 27th was just kept out by goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes, who had come on for Julio Cesar.

Brazil coach Dunga seems to already have decided on his starting lineup at the World Cup, with Elano getting a spot in midfield alongside Kaka. Dunga played his projected starters against the reserves for the first time in training on Sunday, erasing some doubts still lingering in Brazil's team with less than two weeks to go for the World Cup. Elano, Ramires, Kleberson and Julio Baptista were vying for a place as the team's other attacking midfielder along with Kaka, and Dunga had been rotating them in matches ahead of the World Cup. But Elano played in the regular starting team on Sunday, and was picked for some key roles such as taking free kicks and penalties.

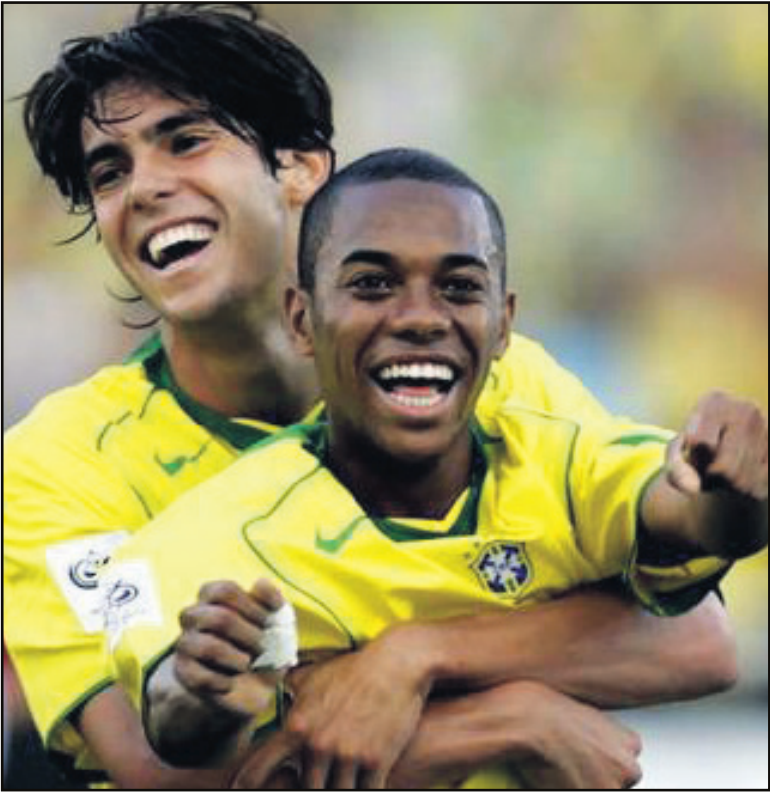
The practice match, which lasted nearly 45 minutes, ended goalless but the 29-year-old Elano performed impressively. The Galatasaray midfielder has been a regular in Dunga's squad since the coach took over after the 2006 World Cup, and has played 57 times. He was with the team when it won the 2007 Copa America and last year's Confederations Cup.

Another position that Dunga appears to have made a decision on is left back, with Lyon's Michel Bastos edging out Gilberto. Bastos, who only has three caps, is the less experienced of the pair but has impressed Dunga in the matches he has played. Dunga has stuck to the same group of players since replacing Carlos Alberto Parreira as coach, revamping the team by leaving out stars such as Ronaldinho, Adriano, Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos and bringing in lesser-known players like Elano and Bastos.

Seeking its sixth world title, Brazil arrived in South Africa on Thursday and has practiced every day since. But only on Sunday did Dunga put together his starting side. The team was: Julio Cesar, Maicon, Juan, Lucio, Bastos, Gilberto Silva, Felipe Melo, Elano, Kaka, Robinho and Luis Fabiano. "It's important to get the team to play as much as possible," Dunga said. Brazil will play two warmup matches, against Zimbabwe in Harare on Wednesday and then Tanzania in Dar es Salaam on June 7, before opening its World Cup campaign on June 15 with a Group G match against North Korea. Brazil's second group match will be against the Ivory Coast on June 20 and the last against Portugal on June 25.

Honduras faced some problems exchanging shirts at the end of it's last match because the Central American country is traveling without enough extra equipment. Team general manager Osman Madrid said Sunday the problem arose after Thursday's 2-2 draw with Belarus in Villach, Austria, when a Belarus federation official asked to exchange shirts. Madrid said the request was initially denied, and then granted so as not to seem arrogant. Teams traditionally exchange jerseys after matches as a sign of sportsmanship. Madrid said more shirts would be on hand Wednesday when Honduras faces Azerbaijan. Honduras plays in Group H of the World Cup with Spain, Chile and Switzerland

Mexico warmed up for the World Cup with a 5-1 victory over Gambia thanks to two goals apiece from Javier Hernandez and Adolfo Bautista. Mexico will kick off the tournament June 11 against host South Africa. The Mexicans dominated Gambia on a rainy day in southern Germany and looked sharp on counterattacks, but wasted a number of chances, too. Hernandez gave Mexico a 1-0 halftime lead and doubled it five minutes into the second half. Bautista then scored his first, before




Brazil's Kaka and Robinho prepare to take on the world

Gambia earned its only goal through Ebrima Sohna's header in the 65th after a corner. Bautista connected at the far post to make it 4-1 and Alberto Medina slotted home from the left side after a counterattack to complete the win in the 80th.

Diego Maradona says he's still uncertain about his starting 11 less than two weeks before Argentina's World Cup opener against Nigeria. The Argentina coach held his first news conference in South Africa on Tuesday and said he would not know his first team until just days before the June 12 opener. Among other things, Maradona is trying to find places for all of his talented forwards: FIFA player of the year Lionel Messi of Barcelona, Carlos Tevez of Manchester City, Gonzalo Higuain of Real Madrid and Diego Milito of Inter Milan.

Up front he has to find room for a half-dozen talented strikers. In addition to the top four he also has Martin Palermo of Boca Juniors and Sergio Aguero of Atletico Madrid. "We could not be better," said Javier Mascherano, the Liverpool midfielder and team captain. "This is a great group. Everyone is looking for a chance. Everybody is really into it and there is no complaining." In addition to the June 12 opener against Nigeria, Argentina also faces Greece and South Korea in Group B.

Robinho said Tuesday he was glad he decided to return to Brazilian football and reiterated that he wanted to remain at Santos after his six-month spell on loan from English club Manchester City expires in August. Robinho believed his move back to Santos, where he started his career, in January was the main reason why he is in top form heading into this month's World Cup.

"It was a great decision," Robinho said. "What I wanted was to go to Brazil to prepare and be ready for the World Cup." Robinho was used sparingly at City and was worried his lack of first-team action would harm his chances of being ready for the World Cup. His loan deal at Santos ends in August but Robinho made it clear he wanted to stay longer.

"I'm not sure what to expect of my future yet but I hope to stay with Santos," he said. A potential problem could be that City paid Real Madrid 32.5 million pounds (\$58 million) for Robinho and Santos, or indeed any other Brazilian club, will struggle to afford that fee. Santos was able to sign Robinho on loan only because the player reportedly took a pay cut and several sponsors got involved. Robinho was City's first signing following

Sheikh Mansour's takeover of the club but he did not hit the heights expected at the Premier League side, claiming he wasn't being used regularly by the coaches.

"I didn't even play that bad, I just didn't get the run (in the side) that I wanted," Robinho said. "Football in England is about strength; it's difficult for a Brazilian player to adapt to that." Robinho's career skyrocketed after he led Santos to Brazilian league titles in 2002 and 2004. This year, he helped the team win the traditional Sao Paulo state championship and reach the Brazilian Cup final, which will be played after the World Cup.

"I've been playing well with Santos and that helped me get prepared for the national team," Robinho said. The 26-year-old Robinho, who was a reserve in the 2006 team eliminated by France in the quarterfinals in Germany, will be one of Brazil's main players in South Africa. This time he said he feels much more mature than four years ago and is ready to take on a leadership role. "Robinho couldn't play the way he likes in Europe," Brazil midfielder Elano said. "But in this World Cup, he will have the chance to show he is one of the best in the world."

To do that, Robinho will have to overcome one extra challenge—the ball. He is one of the many players criticizing it ahead of the World Cup. "For sure the guy who designed this ball never played football," Robinho said. "But there is nothing we can do, we have to play with it." Officials say in Brazil that overhauling Rio de Janeiro's huge Maracana Stadium for the 2014 World Cup will cost more than \$390 million. Marcia Lins, Rio de Janeiro state Sports and Tourism secretary, tells O Globo newspaper that the stadium's renovation will begin in August and end in December 2012. She says total costs should come in at an expected 720 million reals (\$393 million).

Lins told the newspaper on Wednesday that Maracana will be ready to host the Confederations Cup in 2013. Seating capacity at the stadium, built for the 1950 World Cup, is expected to increase from 82,238 to 90,000.

On another note more locally in Brazil, Brazilian prosecutors said Wednesday there were "strong indications" football star Adriano transferred a large sum of money to a notorious drug lord held responsible for the downing of a police helicopter last year. State prosecutors said in an e-mailed statement that after taking a deposition from Adriano, they would now request that a judge give them permission to examine data from the player's bank accounts and telephones. Prosecutors said they were focusing on the alleged transfer last December of \$33,000 from Adriano to a drug lord wanted by police.

"The Public Ministry considers extremely serious the facts that have made the player a suspect and there are strong indications that he has transferred money to the drug trafficker Fabiano Atanasio da Silva," the

prosecutor's note read. Officials are also looking into conspiracy to sell illegal drugs and the possession of unlawful weapons by organized crime groups as part of the investigation—though there was no indication Adriano was involved in those aspects of the case. Adriano has denied any wrongdoing. He did not speak to the press after talking with prosecutors. After-hours calls to the office of the attorney who accompanied him to the prosecutor's office were not returned.

Adriano has not been charged with any crimes, and it was not clear what charges he could possibly face. ate Wednesday, a spokesman for Rio's civil police said they, too, were seeking a deposition from Adriano in connection to the same investigation. Police say Silva—a leader of the Red Command drug gang—last October ordered his foot soldiers to overtake a rival gang's territory in a nearby slum. As the gangs fought a wild shootout, a police helicopter hovering nearby was shot down and crashed in flames, killing three officers.

That ignited a gang war and saw some 2,000 police invading more than a dozen slums, often triggering shootouts that left at least 40 people dead in less than a week. Bodies of rival drug gang members were strewn across streets of Rio, in shopping carts, trunks of cars or just dumped on the outskirts of slums. That violence erupted two weeks after Rio won the right to host the Olympics and raised concerns about security for the Games. The city on Oct. 2 was picked over Chicago, Madrid and Tokyo to host the games. Rio alone among the bid cities was highlighted for security concerns ahead of the International Olympic Committee vote. Rio officials have defended their record in safely hosting major events—including the yearly Carnival and the 2007 Pan American Games. In addition, Rio police in the last year have begun an intense crackdown on the slums where drug gangs have ruled with impunity.

Police say Silva, who is not in custody, controls the Vila Cruzeiro slum where Adriano grew up and where he continues to spend time. Last year, Adriano left Inter Milan, saying he was no longer happy playing football in Italy. He returned to Rio and signed with Flamengo, a team he led to Brazil's national championship last year. Last week, Adriano announced that he was leaving Flamengo and returning to Italy, where he said he would sign with Roma. It was not clear what impact the investigation would have on those plans. The note from the prosecutor's office indicated that police had 60 more days to complete the investigation into Adriano's alleged involvement with the trafficker Silva.

Finally, Brazil named its final squad for the World Cup Tuesday, with coach Dunga retaining the 23 players already in South Africa preparing for the tournament. Dunga had named an initial squad of 30 players only because it was a FIFA requirement, but did not make any surprise selections on deadline day. The 23-man group selected by Dunga has been practicing in South Africa since last Thursday. The seven players on standby—Ronaldinho, Paulo Henrique Ganso, Sandro, Diego Tardelli, Alex, Carlos Eduardo and Marcelo—were all left out as expected.

Dunga has revamped the Brazil squad since taking over after the 2006 World Cup, leaving out big-name players like Ronaldinho, Ronaldo and Adriano. Instead of stars, Dunga put his faith in some lesser-known players who proved their worth with successful results, including a tournament win at last year's Confederations Cup and a top-place finish in South American World Cup qualifying.

Brazil:
Goalkeepers: *Julio Cesar (Inter Milan), Heurelho Gomes (Tottenham), Doni (AS Roma).*
Defenders: *Maicon (Inter Milan), Daniel Alves (Barcelona), Michel Bastos (Lyon), Gilberto (Cruzeiro), Lucio (Inter Milan), Juan (AS Roma), Luisao (Benfica), Thiago Silva (AC Milan).*
Midfielders: *Elano (Galatasaray), Kaka (Real Madrid), Gilberto Silva (Panathinaikos), Josue (Wolfsburg), Ramires (Benfica), Felipe Melo (Juventus), Kleberson (Flamengo), Julio Baptista (AS Roma).*
Forwards: *Luis Fabiano (Sevilla), Nilmar (Villarreal), Robinho (Santos), Grafite (Wolfsburg).*



Serbia

Partizan Belgrade won their third consecutive Serbian League title thanks to Red Star's slip ups in the last few rounds. The red and whites led for most of the seasons but lost twice to the champions and dropped points to a couple of lower placed sides proved costly.

Partizan now has 22 league titles, three short of Red Star. The country's most successful team in history did lift some silverware following a Cup win over Vojvodina, they were also the most watched team in the league, averaging crowds of 18,000.

Vojvodina forward Dragan Mrdja was awarded the Player of the Season and won the Golden Boot for scoring 22 league goals. Mrdja's biggest reward was being selected in Radomir Antic's World Cup squad.

In the lead up to the World Cup, the national team played three warm up games, a loss to New Zealand was followed by a goalless draw with Poland. In the last warm up, Serbia defeated Cameroon 4:3 in Belgrade. Milos Krasic, Dejan Stankovic, Nenad Milijas and Marko Pantelic found the net for the White Eagles.



Croatia

Dinamo Zagreb continued their dominance, winning their fifth consecutive Croatian League title. Rivals Hajduk were worthy opponents this season finishing second in the League and winning the Croatian Cup.

Zagreb striker Davor Vugrinec is the league's Golden Boot Winner after scoring 18 goals this season. Vugrinec has scored 116 goals in the Croatian League, 10 less than Igor Cvitanovic who holds the record having scored 126 goals.

Hajduk's Bosnian star Senad Ibrić was second on the scorers chart after netting 17 goals. Istra 1961 forward Asim Šehić had a great season scoring 14 times.

League Champions Dinamo Zagreb was also awarded the Fair Play award. They will be hoping to get into the UEFA Champions League group stages for the first time in over a decade. Hajduk will be more than satisfied with winning the Cup and a spot in the Europa League qualifiers. Cibalia will also take part in the Europa League qualifiers after finishing third having been second for most of the season.



Bosnia

The trophies were also shared in Bosnia between the two best clubs this season. Zeljeznicar and Borac Banja Luka played some memorable matches, lifting the quality of the league.

Zeljeznicar won the league after a two horse race all season with Borac who were front runners for most of the campaign. Borac did win the Cup after a classic second leg encounter in Sarajevo.

NK Travnik striker Fedja Dudic finished as the league's top goal poacher, finding the back of the net 16 times. Zeljeznicar goalkeeper Ibrahim Šehić is a contender for Player of the Season following his impressive performances between the posts. The Bosnian U21



Zeljko celebrate

player conceded the fewest goals (21) in the league's history.

The national team lost to Germany in a midweek friendly 3:1. Bosnia went into the second half up 1:0 following Edin Džeko's early goal. Philip Lahm levelled matters while Bastien Schweinsteiger converted two penalties. Safet Sušić's men can consider themselves unlucky as they played good football and had Germany on the back foot for most of the game.



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Weekend of upsets in QSL

By Jarrod Ellis

Round 11 of the Hyundai QSL was a weekend for upsets as Bundaberg, Whitsunday and QAS all secured results against teams placed higher on the ladder than themselves.

Bundaberg Spirit will have come out the happiest of any side in the league as they secured their first win since 2008 against Capricorn Cougars.

The final scored read 2-1 to the visitors and Spirit coach Richard Mitchell will have to be impressed as his team battled to an away win it what was a match between the two bottom placed sides in the competition.

Bundaberg have had their playing stock reduced in recent weeks as first-choice stopper Ben Heidenreich and Sunshine Coast recruit Kevin Clarke both jumped ship along with an injury list that includes Matthew Mills, Arian Dubroy, Elliot Causer and Aaron Bakker.

It hasn't been all bad new for the Spirit though as Adam Ormsby and Nick Fitzgerald have been recruited from the Central Coast Mariners in an effort to turn around the clubs poor fortunes. That recruiting effort can now only be looked upon as paying dividends with the Spirit finally ending a run of thirty-three games without a win.

For the home side the result serves only to further dent the confidence of Capricorn, who came into the season with hopes of qualifying for the finals after some promising preseason results.

Attack has to be the main concern of coach Brad Smith as his side have now only managed to score four goals in the past 540 minutes of football. Anthony Hartnell was pushed forward into a target man role for the match but couldn't do enough to secure a victory for his team.

Further north Whitsunday Miners played fourth placed NQ Razorbacks to a 2-2 draw in an entertaining match. The first half proved to be the more action packed as all four goals were scored between the 20th and 36th minutes.

Graham Harvey was the first to get his name on the scoresheet as he put the hosts 1-0 up and it was no real surprise when the in-form Tyson Masters capitalised on some lax defending from the Razorbacks to make it 2-0 in the 33rd minute.

The Razorbacks have hinted at developing a tougher mental attitude in the past few weeks and that continued in Round 11 as they quickly recovered from the second goal. Barely two minutes after Masters' goal David Mayes struck for the visitors, drawing them back to within one. Robin Edwards was well placed only another minute later as the visitors drew level, taking advantage of a Miners' defence that struggled at times without the influence of absent captain Brett Neeve.

From there the match became somewhat of a see-saw affair, both sides creating chances to take the lead but neither able to find that cutting edge that could have secured them victory. Earlier in the week Razorbacks' coach Kevin Mitchell had lamented his side's inability to take chances when they presented themselves and no doubt he will have had something to say to his charges as they missed the chance to move into third place on the ladder.

Continuing north up the coast to Mareeba, FNQ Bulls welcomed QAS to Borzi Park in a repeat of one of the most thrilling games of the season so far. Back in Round 4 the Bulls pulled off a remarkable comeback from 3-0 down to defeat QAS 7-4 at Meakin Park.

This time around the result was markedly different as QAS held off the older Bulls



TQAS striker Mitch Cooper and Bulls midfielder George Koroma. PHOTO: JIM HATCHMAN



Bulls Peter McGrath in his first game . PHOTO:JIM HATCHMAN

LADDER										
	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts		
1 Sunshine Coast	11	11	0	0	34	13	21	33		
2 Brisbane Strikers	11	6	2	3	19	8	11	20		
3 FNQ Bulls	11	6	0	5	24	22	2	18		
4 NQ Razorbacks	11	5	2	4	21	13	8	17		
5 QAS	10	4	1	5	24	26	-2	13		
6 Whitsunday Miners	10	3	2	5	16	20	-4	11		
7 Capricorn Cougars	11	2	2	7	11	22	-11	8		
8 Bundaberg Spirit	11	1	1	9	10	35	-25	4		

RESULTS										
Capricorn Cougars 1 v Bundaberg Spirit 2										
Whitsunday Miners 2 (Harvey 20, Master 33) v NQ Razorbacks 2 (Mayes 35, Edwards 36)										
FNQ Bulls 0 v QAS 1 (Ronto 14)										
Sunshine Coast FC 2 (Holmes 41, Blackman 76) v Brisbane Strikers 1 (Burke 88)										

NEXT ROUND										
ROUND 12										
Brisbane Strikers v Bundaberg Spirit										
Sat 12 June 7:00pm										
Capricorn Cougars v FNQ Bulls										
Sat 12 June 7:00pm										
NQ Razorbacks v QAS										
Sat 12 June 7:30pm										
Whitsunday Miners v Sunshine Coast FC										
Sun 13 June 2:00pm										

side to win 1-0 in a cagey affair. The win is the second on the trot for the QAS and after a slow start to the season are beginning to look like challengers for a finals place if they can remain focussed in defence.

FNQ were without Dennis Allen, Calum Wood, Kane Alderton and Larry Maggio for the match but no doubt would have been disappointed with the result as they missed the chance to pick up points as the two sides above them clashed at Kawana late on Sunday.

The most anticipated match of the round was without a doubt the top of the table matchup between Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. The Sunshine Coast Fire went into the match on a ten match unbeaten run, yet to drop a single point in the 2010 QSL. Brisbane on the other hand have struggled at time this season but headed into the match coming off back-to-back victories in the past two rounds, overcoming NQ Razorbacks and Whitsunday Miners in Rounds 9 and 10.

On both of those occasions Brisbane managed to keep their opponents scoreless but against the best attacking side in the league the Strikers defence was unable to maintain that level of performance and Sunshine Coast came out on top 2-1.

The Sunshine Coast's two talismans, Tyson Holmes and Shaun Blackman were major contributors to the victory as they both got their names on the scoresheet. Holmes struck just four minutes before the half-time break to give his side the league in what was his fifty-second match for the club in the QSL.

Brisbane put in a strong performance after the half and had chances to draw level but failed to take them. That profligacy in front of goal was punished by Blackman as he put his side 2-0 ahead with what would prove to be the match winner in the 76th minute.

The result leaves Sunshine Coast thirteen points clear at the top of table at the half way point of the season. Such a substantial lead will be hard for the other clubs to reel in and at this point the Fire look almost certain QSL Premiers.



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Bonnyrigg snatch lead in summit battle

By Mike Salter

The Marconi Stallions and the Bonnyrigg White Eagles remained tied at the top of the NSW Premier League table after both sides secured away victories on the weekend. A goal from Shane Webb was enough for Bonnyrigg to topple defending champions Sutherland at Seymour Shaw on Saturday night, while Marconi won 4-0 at APIA-Leichhardt in the “Italian derby” on Sunday. Details of that match can be found below.

In Sunday’s other fixtures, the other two teams in the leading pack also gained three points: Sydney United prevailed against the South Coast Wolves in Wollongong thanks to a second-half goal from youngster Ante Tomić, while Blacktown City won 3-1 at home against Sydney Olympic, two goals from Tolgay Ozbey dooming his old club to their tenth defeat of the season.

Bankstown City put five past the West Sydney Berries to keep their close neighbours anchored to the bottom of the table, while Manly United endured their second successive washout, with Cromer Park not being up to the task for their scheduled match against Rockdale City.

APIA-Leichhardt 0-4 Marconi Stallions
Marconi maintained their position at the head of the table in emphatic style at Leichhardt Oval, subduing a fragile APIA-Leichhardt side with the minimum of fuss.

The hosts had the first chance of the game on four minutes, when Anthony Hartshorn nipped through the Marconi defence and was left with a clear run on goal, but the former Olympic man took too many touches and his eventual shot was smothered.

Three minutes later, Marconi scored their first of the afternoon. Matthew Hall slipped into a gap in the inside-right channel and sent a powerful left-footed shot at goal; Matthew Nash managed to save, but the ball rebounded to young Lawrence Braude, who fired smartly home from eight yards.

Buoyed by his strike, the youngster tried again a minute later, testing Nash with a whipping shot from the right which almost beat the keeper at his near post. Braude was seeing plenty of action on the right wing and his was the next chance as well, a Marconi breakaway ending with him confidently lashing the ball at goal from 20 yards. Nash did well to reach the shot.

Although APIA were getting plenty of the ball, they looked static and indecisive in attack, while Marconi’s breakaways were inventive and dangerous. A fine move by the visitors on the left ended with a neat cross from Matt



Bonnyrigg White Eagles players mob Shane Webb at Seymour Shaw Park on Saturday evening after scoring the winner against the Sutherland Sharks to land a 1-0 result. PHOTO: CARLOS FURTADO

Gordon which Chris Nunes, sneaking up from right-back, volleyed over the bar.

Marconi continued to create all the chances. Alex Canak almost scored an outrageous goal when he lunged to reach a ball by the right touchline and drove it at goal after Nash had come out of his area; the attempt very nearly found its mark.

On 19 minutes the Marconi pressure finally told again, although there was an element of good fortune about the goal. Braude forced a right-wing corner, which was shanked by Jarrod Lum into the nearest APIA defender. The ball, however, ricocheted from the latter onto the bar, and Hall reacted quickly, heading home from point-blank range.

APIA’s best chance of coming back into the game came and went on 27 minutes. Latching onto a long ball from the left, Hirofuni Moriyasu burst into the box and shot from close range; a splendid save from James Chronopoulos allowed Marconi to retain their two-goal advantage.

The game began to settle into a predictable pattern of toothless APIA attack and less-than-committed Marconi counterattack, but five minutes before the interval APIA were breached again. Braude and Canak combined

delightfully on the right, with Canak eventually sending a crisp ball across goal, which Gordon side-footed cleverly past the advancing Nash.

It was clear where the points were going, and the game fizzled out somewhat in the second period. Half-chances for Hartshorn and Stephen Kayes were all that the dispirited hosts could muster, while Marconi were content to sit on their lead, committing few men forward and knocking the ball around almost nonchalantly.

Nevertheless, they managed a fourth on 78 minutes. A fine pass from Canak released Gordon on the right, and the experienced winger produced his second excellent finish of the afternoon, placing the ball deftly past Nash from a tight angle.

It should have been five on 83 minutes when a neat pass from Nunes set substitute Nathan Jagelman free on the left; the teenager thumped a shot at goal which Nash could only parry as far as Braude, who tapped the ball in. The linesman, however, ruled Braude offside, a decision that looked highly debatable.

It hardly mattered. Marconi are back in the groove after two miserable weeks, and APIA’s hopes of a top five finish are looking bleaker.



Marconi romp APIA in the derby and share top spot. PHOTO: CARLOS FURTADO

NSW LADDER				
	P	W	L	Pts
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	15	9	5	32
Marconi Stallions	15	10	2	32
Sydney United	15	8	5	29
Blacktown City FC	15	8	4	28
Sutherland Sharks	15	7	2	23
Rockdale City Suns	14	4	7	19
Bankstown City	15	5	2	17
APIA Leichhardt Tigers	14	5	2	17
Manly United FC	13	3	3	12
South Coast Wolves	15	3	3	12
Sydney Olympic	15	3	2	11
West Sydney Berries	15	2	5	11

NSW RESULTS				
NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 15: FIRST GRADE: Sutherland Sharks 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 (Shane Webb 25m), Manly United FC Rockdale City Suns Washed Out, Bankstown City 5 (Shannon Burgin 9m Tallan Martin 13/24m Robert Mileski 74m Christopher Godoy Bascur 83m) West Sydney Berries 0, APIA Leichhardt Tigers 0 Marconi Stallions 4 (Lawrence Braude 8m Matthew Hall 19m Matthew Gordon 40/79m), South Coast Wolves 0 Sydney United 1 (Ante Tomić 54m), Blacktown City FC 3 (Tolgay Ozbey 6/67m Joel Chianese 17m) Sydney Olympic 1 (Chris Triantis 77m).				
GRADE 20: Sutherland Sharks 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Manly United FC Rockdale City Suns Washed Out, Bankstown City 0 West Sydney Berries 0, APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2 Marconi Stallions 0, South Coast Wolves 1 Sydney United 1, Blacktown City FC 1 Sydney Olympic 4.				
GRADE 18: Sutherland Sharks 2 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2, Bankstown City 0 West Sydney Berries 4, APIA Leichhardt Tigers Marconi Stallions Washed Out, Blacktown City FC Sydney Olympic Washed Out.				
NSW SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 12: FIRST GRADE: Parramatta Eagles Mt Druitt Town Rangers Washed Out, Fraser Park FC St George FC Washed Out, Sydney University Granville Rage Washed Out, Central Coast Lightning FC Bossy Liverpool Washed Out, Spirit FC 0 Macarthur Rams 3 (A Hadid 51m S Messam 68/82m), Northern Tigers 0 Dulwich Hill 0.				
GRADE 20: Parramatta Eagles Mt Druitt Town Rangers Washed Out, Fraser Park FC St George FC Washed Out, Sydney University Granville Rage Washed Out, Central Coast Lightning FC Bossy Liverpool Washed Out.				
DIVISION ONE: ROUND 12: FIRST GRADE: Balmain SC Camden Tigers Washed Out, Hills Brumbies Stanmore Hawks Washed Out, Inter Lions Mounties Wanderers Washed Out, UNSW Blacktown Spartans Washed Out, Hurstville ZFC Schofield Scorpions FC Washed Out, Gladesville Ryde Magic 0 Fairfield City Lions 4 (O Cetinay 35m B Cronk 62/65m A Sama 92m).				

NEXT ROUND				
Round 16				
7pm Sat 12/Jun B'rigg White Eagles v Syd Utd				
Bonnyrigg Sports Club				
7.30pm Sat 12/Jun Marconi Stallions v S'land Sharks				
Marconi Stadium				
3pm Sun 13/Jun Syd Olympic v Manly Utd				
Belmore Sports Ground				
3pm Sun 13/Jun Rockdale C Suns v APIA L'hardt Tigers				
Bicentennial Park Sth				
3pm Sun 13/Jun West Syd Berries v Blacktown City				
Sydney Olympic Athletic Centre				
3pm Sun 13/Jun Sth Coast Wolves v Bankstown City				
Win Stadium				

Sydney to host international club tournament

By Alex Milic

A League Champions Sydney FC will host three big European clubs in a round robin style tournament, delighting football lovers all over the state.

Scottish giants Glasgow Rangers, English Premier League side Blackburn Rovers and eleven times Greek Champions AEK Athens will compete in this exciting football festival taking place at the Sydney Football Stadium.

This is great news for Australian football and for the city of Sydney. It will be a great boost ahead of the country’s historic World Cup bid, and this is one

of many projects to bring footballs best to our shores.

“There is no secret Sydney wants to hold the World Cup final and this event will make a strong statement about Sydney as Australia’s home of Football. I would like to extend an invitation to the Scottish, English and Greek communities located across Australia. Book a ticket to Sydney and cheer on your teams.” Sydney FC CEO Edwin Lugt said.

Many fans all over the country are expected to make the trip to Sydney, confirming the growth of the sport in Australia. The tournament will kick off on July 25 when Sydney FC take on Greek side AEK Athens followed by the British blockbuster between Rangers and

Blackburn.

This will be the first tournament of its kind to be held in Australia and is seen as a stepping stone for hosting the World Cup in either 2018 or 2022.

Sunday 25 July:
Game 1 at 12:45pm – Sydney FC v AEK Athens FC
Game 2 at 3pm – Blackburn Rovers v Glasgow Rangers
Wednesday 28 July:
Game 3 at 6pm – AEK Athens FC v Blackburn Rovers
Game 4 at 8:15pm – Sydney FC v Glasgow Rangers
Saturday 31 July:
Game 5 at 5pm – AEK Athens FC v

Glasgow Rangers
Game 6 at 7:15pm – Sydney FC v Blackburn Rovers



Greek side AEK Athens will be heading to Australia in July.



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Middle Row: Brett Holman, Carl Valeri, Brett Emerton, Brad Jones, Mark Schwarzer, Adam Federici, Eugene Galekovic, Mark Milligan, Jade North, Luke Wilkshire

Front Row: Nick Carle, Jason Culina, Mark Bresciano, Vince Grella, Tim Cahill, Lucas Neill, Harry Kewell, Craig Moore, Scott Chipperfield, Scott McDonald, Tommy Oar

2010 FIFA WORLD CUP – GROUP D



Germany v Australia
Sunday 13 June 2010
Moses Mabhida Stadium, Durban
Kick-Off time: 8:30pm SAST (4:30am AEST)



Ghana v Australia
Saturday 19 June 2010
Royal Bafokeng Stadium, Rustenburg
Kick-Off time: 4:00pm SAST (12:00am AEST)



Australia v Serbia
Wednesday 23 June 2010
Mbombela Stadium, Nelspruit
Kick-Off time: 8:30pm SAST (4:30am AEST)



Sth Hobart have unassailable lead

By Walter Pless

South Hobart appear to have an unassailable 13-point lead at the top of the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League with nine rounds remaining.

They are well on the way to their third successive league title under coach Ken Morton.

South Hobart had to fight hard to beat second-last Taroonas 3-1 away at Kelvedon Park on Saturday, but the previous evening, their closest rivals, second-placed Tilford Zebras and third-ranked Glenorchy Knights, could only draw 1-1.

The Friday night result may have caused a little complacency in the South Hobart ranks as they were far from impressive against Taroonas.

Indeed, Taroonas scored first when poor defending by the visitors enabled Hugo Luttmert to net in the 19th minute. South goalkeeper Sam Kruijver could only parry Toby Doves shot and Luttmert swept home the rebound.

It was not until the 31st minute that South drew level. A long kick by Kruijver and a pass by Greg Downes put Jonathon Lo through and he left defender Jack Elliott sprawled on the ground as he slipped the ball past goalkeeper Robert Hortle.

Two minutes before the interval, Downes gave South the lead with a perfectly-placed free-kick that gave Hortle no chance as the ball whistled past him and into the top left-hand corner of the net.

Downes had also hit the bar in the first half, but Taroonas were proving plucky opponents and refused to lie down.

Midway through the second half, Downes hit the bar again with an excellent free-kick, while Sam Johnson blocked the follow-up shot from Jim



Taroonas Hugo Luttmert (left) vies for possession with New Town Eagles' Ethan Menzie. PHOTO: WALTER PLESS

Pennicott.

Pennicott lobbed just wide a minute later, while in the 72nd minute, he headed narrowly past the post.

Liam Scott fired wide for the visitors in the 76th minute, while in the 80th, the ever-dangerous defender Pennicott had a shot blocked on the line.

Substitute Andy King made the game safe in the final minute with a wonderful strike from 25 metres that gave Hortle no chance and made it 3-1.

Ricky Self headed Tilford Zebras ahead in the 16th minute against the Knights and it wasn't until 9 minutes from the end that substitute James Hope levelled, tapping home a cross from Corey Smith.

Jade Clay almost snatched a winner for the Knights in stoppage time, but he just failed to connect with Smith's far-post cross.

In the Saturday night match, Clarence United downed New Town Eagles 5-2. Ben Hamlett netted a hat-trick for Clarence, whose first two goals came from deflected free-kicks by Luke Cripps.

Jacob Clamp and Alex Leszczynski were Eagles' marksmen. Eagles had two penalty appeals turned down in the first half in what was their worst defeat of the season.

The previous Sunday, Eagles had beaten Taroonas 4-2 at home at Clare Street, the goals coming from Michael An-

NORTH RESULTS

Launceston United 1
Burnie United 3 HT 0-3
Ulverstone 2
Somerset 3 HT 1-1
Launceston City 1
Riverside Olympic 5 HT 0-3
Northern Rangers 1
Prospect Knights 0 HT 1-0

SOUTH RESULTS

Tilford Zebras 1
Glenorchy Knights 1 HT 1-0
Taroonas 1
South Hobart 3 HT 1-2
Clarence United 5
New Town Eagles 2 HT 3-1
Hobart Olympia 1
Kingborough Lions 1

NORTH LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northern Rangers	9	6	3	0	31	13	21
Devonport City	8	5	2	1	31	14	17
Riverside Olympic	9	5	2	2	23	13	17
Prospect Knights	9	5	1	3	31	22	16
Ulverstone	9	5	1	3	29	20	16
Burnie United	9	4	0	5	33	21	12
Somerset	9	4	0	5	19	32	12
Launceston City	9	2	0	7	19	27	6
Launceston United	9	0	0	9	9	60	0

SOUTH LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	12	11	1	0	38	8	34
Tilford Zebras	12	6	3	3	31	26	21
Glenorchy Knights	11	5	3	3	25	12	18
Kingborough Lions	12	4	3	4	16	22	18
Clarence United	12	4	4	4	26	24	16
New Town Eagles	11	2	4	5	19	22	10
Taroonas	10	2	2	6	16	30	8
Hobart Olympia	12	0	4	8	12	31	4

NTH NEXT ROUND

Round 13
Friday 11th June
Glenorchy Knights v Hobart Olympia KGV Park 8pm

Saturday 12th June
Tilford Zebras v New Town Eagles KGV Park 2.30pm
South Hobart v Clarence United South Hobart 2.30pm
Kingborough Lions v Taroonas Lightwood Park 2.30pm

STH NEXT ROUND

Round 11
Saturday 12th June
Prospect Knights v Somerset Harley Parade 2.30pm
Burnie United v Launceston City Montello 2.30pm
Ulverstone v Devonport City Ulverstone Showgrounds 2.30pm
Riverside Olympic v Launceston United Windsor Park 2.30pm
Northern Rangers - Bye

Saturday 19th June
Statewide Lakoseljac Cup Round 2

draws, Adam McKeown, Ben Whitehall and Alex Leszczynski.

Taroonas caused a scare for the home side when they pulled two goals back in three minutes. Eagles goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford turned a cross into his own net, while Duncan Carey grabbed the other, but it was too little too late for the visitors.

Northern Rangers opened up a 4-point lead in the Forestry Tasmania North-

ern Premier League when they downed Prospect Knights 1-0. Second-placed Devonport City had the bye.

Burnie United beat bottom-side Launceston United 3-1 away, while Ulverstone succumbed 3-2 at home against Somerset in a North-West Coast derby.

Second-last Launceston City were thumped 5-1 at home at Mitsubishi Park by Riverside Olympic.

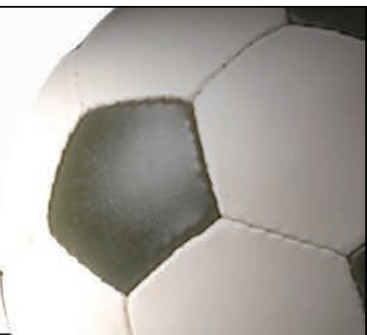


Jonathon Lo equalises for South Hobart against Taroonas. PHOTO: WALTER PLESS

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Cockburn shocks Knights

By Jacob Kagi

Cockburn City took a massive step towards avoiding relegation from the Football West State Premier League with a shock 3-2 win over Western Knights.

Cockburn’s upset win allowed Perth SC to stay top despite its 1-0 loss to Stirling Lions, while increasing the pressure on other relegation candidates Inglewood United and Swan United.

City made the tough decision this week to part ways with its coach, former Perth Glory full-back Scott Miller, replacing him with former Western Knights assistant coach Tony Castiello.

Castiello got the best performance of the season out of his new side in his first game in charge, giving it just its second win of the season and moving it within one point of safety.

Rory Feely gave Cockburn the lead 23 minutes in and Jason Dos Santos doubled its advantage eight minutes before half-time.

Paul Van Dongen continued his good form, getting one back for the Knights in the 66th minute before David Trim appeared to have snatched a point for the Nash Field side when he scored with two minutes remaining.

Cockburn’s hero was Anthony Pereira, who scored the winner in second-half stoppage time, getting Cockburn a vital win with an impressive lob over the ‘keeper and putting a dent in the Knights’ title chances.

It was a massive turnaround from last week’s game, where Western Knights were 4-2 victors over Cockburn at Nash Field, with the change in manager appearing to help City’s cause considerably.

Shane Robinson was the hero for Stirling Lions as it defeated Perth SC 1-0, but it wasn’t enough to knock the Azzurri out of the league lead.

Robinson got the winner after just seven minutes at Dorrien Gardens, with a stellar defensive display from the Lions allowing it to hold on.

Perth remains at the top of the league, two points clear of its nearest rival, the same position it was in at the end of last round, while Stirling consolidated its position in the top five.

Floreat Athena moved ahead of Western Knights on goal difference and into second place after it defeated Inglewood United 1-0.

Daniel Neiderberger put Athena ahead against his old club four min-



Perth SC’s Andreas Oliveira missed a late penalty to deny his side a point against Stirling Lions.
PHOTO: EDUARDO MORGAN DEL CASTILLO

utes in, with Floreat unable to take advantage of its many chances and extend its advantage.

Ante Kovacevic’s side’s impressive defence was on show once again, with Floreat remaining the side to have conceded the fewest goals in the Premier League this season.

Armadale snapped a poor run of form and ended Swan United’s impressive run with a 3-1 victory.

Armadale stayed four points clear of the relegation zone with the win, with Swan on the same total of points but behind its opponents on Saturday on goal difference.

Former Melbourne Victory and Perth Glory forward James Robinson scored twice for Armadale, putting it ahead after 37 minutes and sealing

the win with a 70th minute penalty.

Daniel Barlow had made it 2-0 to Armadale when he scored in the 40th minute, but James Sammut got Swan back in the game with his 60th minute goal, before Robinson sealed the points for the southern suburbs club. Mandurah City caused an upset with a 2-0 win over Sorrento.

Andy Brown gave City the lead just after half-time before Rafael Insaurralde wrapped up the points for Mandurah when he scored in the 58th minute.

Mandurah stayed five points clear of the relegation zone but moved to within four points of a finals spot, with Sorrento falling to fifth, just a point clear of nearest rival Balcatta in the all-important finals position.

Balcatta would have moved into the top five had it not thrown away a 3-1 lead in its 3-3 draw at ECU Joondalup.

Lucas Whitehouse had a double for Balcatta, with goals in the 28th and 60th minutes, with Adam Tong scoring in the middle of that to make it 3-1.

Ross Anderson had earlier given ECU the lead after 16 minutes. Joondalup striker Phil O’Callaghan put his side back in the game with a 71st minute goal before levelling the score three minutes later.

ECU is just three points outside the top five and two behind Balcatta after snatching the draw.

A Different View of The World Cup

Goal weekly’s Western Australian contributor and familiar ace from Fox Sports coverage in the West is off to Africa for the World Cup, but in a very different role as documentary maker.

Ashley who used to also work for South African Airways is going to be travelling through Africa during the world cup watching games with the locals and meeting former players, coaches, and referees along the way, to see how Africa, the continent feels about hosting their first World Cup.

His journey will start in West Africa visiting the countries who

have qualified and watching their national teams play with the locals. He will be in Ghana for the Australia v Ghana game which promises to be an interesting experience.

He and his team then head down to East Africa where they will visit Uganda, Sudan Kenya and Tanzania. They then head into South Africa for the semi finals and final.

The documentary is called “Standing at The Touchlines” and you can follow the journey and the team’s experiences via their website www.onthetouchlines.com



Goal! Weekly will be available next week.

Make sure to place an order at your local newsagent, so you don't miss out on Australia's Favourite Football Fanzine.

WA LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Perth SC	12	8	1	3	26	21	5	25
2 Floreat Athena	12	7	2	3	28	14	14	23
3 Western Knights	12	7	2	3	31	18	13	23
4 Stirling Lions	12	6	2	4	17	15	2	20
5 Sorrento	12	5	3	4	23	25	-2	18
6 Balcatta	12	5	2	5	24	23	1	17
7 ECU Joondalup	12	3	6	3	28	28	0	15
8 Mandurah City	12	4	2	6	21	27	-6	14
9 Armadale	12	3	4	5	16	19	-3	13
10 Swan United	12	3	4	5	13	18	-5	13
11 Inglewood United	12	3	1	8	14	27	-13	10
12 Cockburn City	12	2	3	7	17	22	-5	9

WA RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

First Team
ECU Joondalup 3 (Anderson 16, O’Callaghan 71, 74) Balcatta 3 (Whitehouse 28, 60, Tong 47);

Swan United 1 (Sammut 60,) Armadale 3 (J Robinson 37, 70p, Barlow 40);

Cockburn City 3 (Feely 23, Dos Santos 37, Pereira 90) Western Knights 2 (P Van Dongen 66, Trim 88);

Inglewood United 0 Floreat Athena 1 (Neiderberger 4);

Perth SC 0 Stirling Lions 1 (S Robinson 7);

Mandurah City 2 (Brown 47, Insaurralde 58) Sorrento 0

Reserves
ECU Joondalup 1 Balcatta 5; Swan United 3 Armadale 2; Cockburn City 4 Western Knights 1; Inglewood United 2 Floreat Athena 0; Perth SC 1 Stirling Lions 4; Mandurah City 0 Sorrento 4

Under 18’s
ECU Joondalup 1 Balcatta 2; Swan United 5 Armadale 1; Cockburn City 1 Western Knights 2; Inglewood United 1 Floreat Athena 3; Perth SC 2 Stirling Lions 4; Mandurah City 2 Sorrento 2

DIVISION ONE

First Team
Bayswater City 6 (Karpeh 1, Marulanda 21, 78, McStea 35, Wilonja 63, Tchami 90) Rockingham City 0; Queens Park 0 Morley-Windmills 3 (Nelson 20, Mahoney 24, Van Der Ross 43); Forrestdfield United 3 (Burns 17, 75, Harold 51) Fremantle Spirit 0; Gosnells City 1 (Francis 58) Ashfield 4 (Harmon 32, Gordon 50, Narongphunt 60, McKean 90); Bunbury Forum Force 4 (Rogers 3, Stewart 7, Mayers 85, Ravenhill 93p) Dianella White Eagles 1 (Kuppusamy 36)

Reserves
Bayswater City 4 Rockingham City 5; Queens Park 2 Morley-Windmills 3; Forrestdfield United 2 Fremantle Spirit 1; Gosnells City 4 Ashfield 1; Bunbury Forum Force 4 Dianella White Eagles 4

Under 18’s
Bayswater City 3 Rockingham City 2; Queens Park 3 Morley-Windmills 2; Forrestdfield United 0 Fremantle Spirit 3; Gosnells City 3 Ashfield 0; Bunbury Forum Force 3 Dianella White Eagles 3

NEXT ROUND

Round 13

Sat 12 Jun 3PM Mandurah City v Floreat Athena *Hyundai Stadium*

Sat 12 Jun 3PM ECU Joondalup v Inglewood United *ECU Joondalup*

Sat 12 Jun 3PM Sorrento v Western Knights

Percy Doyle Reserve

Sat 12 Jun 3PM Stirling Lions v Swan United

Macedonia Park

Sat 12 Jun 3PM Cockburn City v Perth SC

Dalmatinac Park

Sat 12 Jun 3PM Balcatta v Armadale

Grindelford Reserve

DIVISION ONE LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1Bunbury Forum Force	10	9	0	1	44	6	38	27
2 Bayswater City	10	8	0	2	39	13	26	24
3 Gosnells City	10	7	0	3	22	15	7	21
4 Forrestdfield United	10	6	0	4	24	17	7	18
5 Wanneroo City	9	5	1	3	18	14	4	16
6 Dianella White Eagles	10	4	2	4	21	22	-1	14
7 Canning City	9	4	2	3	19	21	-2	14
8 Morley-Windmills	10	3	2	5	11	19	-8	11
9 Ashfield	10	2	1	7	23	32	-9	7
10 Fremantle SC	10	1	4	5	12	28	-16	7
11 Queens Park	10	2	0	8	14	36	-22	6
12 Rockingham City	10	2	0	8	8	32	-24	6



Castro hat-trick keeps status quo

By Russ Gibbs

A blistering hat-trick from midfielder Alex Castro has given Canberra FC a massive psychological boost with a 4-2 win over Belconnen United in the top-of-the-table Gatorade Premier League match at Deakin Stadium.

Castro struck twice in the first-half, the first after an error from Belconnen 'keeper Ben Cheyne, and completed his treble five minutes after the interval with a near-post header from a corner to put the home team in total control of the big match. Belconnen reduced the gap with a strike from centre-forward Danny Macor but John Glass quickly restored the three goal cushion tapping in from close range after substitute 'keeper Rohan Shepard had saved from Adam Spaleta.

The Blue Devils got back into the game when Tai Smith headed in from close range after Philippe Borgeuad had headed back across goal. Smith should have made it 4-3 but somehow contrived to steer a shot wide of the post from no more than three metres when it seemed far easier to score than miss and the home team held on to increase their lead at the top of the table to four points.

Canberra City moved up into third place after dismissing Tuggeranong United 5-0 at Hawker Football Centre on Friday evening. Misko Naumoski was the main goal threat helping himself to hat-trick with Obeid Shadmann and Tim Mathas, scoring against his former club, completing the one-sided victory which brought an abrupt end to Tuggeranong's recent run of good form.

It was a similar story at Woden Park on Sunday afternoon where Cooma Tigers ran riot over the top of home team Woden Valley winning the match 5-0 to move up to fifth in the table. The Tigers put in their best performance of the season and were in irresistible form in attack ripping into Woden's out-gunned defence to score almost at will. Daniel Gecic opened the scoring, and later added a second, with Marcial Munoz, Scott Barsley and Goran Josifovski also getting onto the score sheet as Gaby Wilk's team enjoyed their run in the chill afternoon air.

There was a major surprise at O'Connor Enclosed as ANU FC defeated Goulburn Strikers 3-2 to record only their second win of the campaign. Tim Womack and Izach Clements gave ANU FC 2-0 half-time cushion which Womack added to after the break. Goulburn weren't about to lie down though and two goals in three minutes from Josh Phelps and Brody Willis, his sixth goal of the term, turned the match into a contest with ANU FC suddenly holding onto their earlier advantage. The Strikers went for an equaliser but the students held firm for an exciting victory.

Monaro Panthers are also back into the top four of the Gatorade Premier League after a 3-1 win over Canberra Olympic at Riverside Stadium. Goran Veljanovski struck twice for the Panthers after James Barac had cancelled out Yianni Karabalas' second-minute opener for Canberra Olympic. The Panthers were well-worth the three points playing some excellent



ACT action between Canberra FC (red) and Belconnen. PHOTO: PAUL LAU



An airborne Belconnen keeper unsuccessfully stretches himself to guard the goal. PHOTO: PAUL LAU

football that Olympic could not handle with Veljanovski scoring his second and third goals in two matches.

PALOMBI BAGS EIGHT IN WODEN ROUT

Woden Valley striker Ashleigh Palombi smashed a record eight goals as the inner-south Canberra side routed Brindabella Blues 11-0 in their round nine clash in The Tradies Women's Premier League. Palombi was in sensational form in front of goal finding her touch in impressive form to lead Woden to a much-needed three points at the top of the league table.

Incredibly younger sister Brittany Palombi had earlier bagged seven goals in

Woden Valley under-18's 13-0 triumph over their Brindabella peers to take the Palombi family total to an incredible fifteen goals for the day! Woden's other goals were struck by Jaline Hoek, Isabella Boag-Taylor and Emma Thornton in a one-sided encounter at Hawker Football Centre.

A brace of goals from Hope Wilkins, taking her Premier League total to nine for the campaign, helped Belwest Foxes maintain their eight point advantage at the top of the table as they overcame Canberra FC 4-2. The Foxes led 4-1 at the break with Elizabeth Pearson and Cian Maciejewski adding to Wilkins' double with Aurelia Bullock's ninth of the year being Canberra FC's goal scorer. In the second half Nicole Somi reduced the deficit further but the Foxes held on for

the points.

Weston Creek remained in fourth place on the ladder after a comfortable, if routine, 3-0 win over ANU WFC. Rachel Crittenden continued her recent vein of good scoring form with another two goals, her sixth in three matches, with Aleisha Tupper completing a victory for Robbie Mason's team that was as straight-forward as the result suggests.

A hat-trick from Sabrina Spinapolice helped Belconnen United defeat Tuggeranong United 3-1 in a high-quality match on Sunday afternoon. Belconnen dominated the second-half and Spinapolice was in excellent form taking her chances with panache. Earlier Tuggeranong had taken a 1-0 lead when the league's top-scorer, Julie Ibarra, struck for the eleventh time in 2010.

NEXT ROUND

Round 9

Sat 19 Jun KO 6pm Belconnen Utd v Monaro Panthers
McKellar Park
Sun 20 Jun KO 3pm ANU FC v Tuggeranong Utd
ANU North Oval 1
Sun 20 Jun KO 3pm Goulburn Strikers v Canberra FC
Cookbundoon
Sun 20 Jun KO 3pm Cooma Tigers v Canberra City
Nijong Oval
Sun 20 Jun KO 5pm Canberra Olympic v Woden Valley
Hawker Football Centre

LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Canberra FC	8	6	2	0	32	5	+27	20
2 Belconnen United	8	5	1	2	19	13	+6	16
3 Canberra City	7	4	1	2	12	8	+4	13
4 Monaro Panthers	7	4	1	2	12	9	+3	13
5 Cooma Tigers	8	3	3	2	14	9	+5	12
6 Canberra Olympic	8	3	2	3	9	10	-1	11
7 Goulburn Strikers	7	2	2	3	15	11	+4	8
8 ANU FC	7	2	0	5	9	18	-9	6
9 Tuggeranong Utd	8	1	2	5	9	29	-20	5
10 Woden Valley	8	1	0	7	7	25	-18	3

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Belwest Foxes	9	9	0	0	41	5	+36	27
2 Woden Valley	8	6	1	1	35	6	+29	19
3 Canberra FC	9	4	3	2	19	22	-3	15
4 Weston Creek	9	4	2	3	18	14	+4	14
6 Belconnen United	9	3	3	17	10	+7	12	9
5 Tuggeranong Utd	9	3	1	5	22	26	-4	10
7 ANU WFC	8	1	0	7	6	25	-19	3
8 Brindabella Blues	9	0	0	9	6	57	-51	0

ACT RESULTS

Canberra FC 4 (Alex Castro 34', 43', 50', John Glass 58') Belconnen United 2 (Danny Macor 52', Tai Smith 64')

Woden Valley 0 Cooma Tigers 5 (Daniel Gecic 17', 62', Marcial Munoz 43', Scott Barsley 59', Goran Josifovski 75')

Monaro Panthers 3 (James Barac 11', Goran Veljanovski 77', 89') Canberra Olympic 1 (Yianni Karabalas 2')

ANU FC 3 (Tim Womack 18', 50', Izach Clements 37') Goulburn Strikers 2 (Josh Phelps 52', Brody Willis 55')

Canberra City 5 (Misko Naumoski 6', 59', 84', Obeid Shadmann 21', Tim Mathas 56') Tuggeranong United 0

WPL

Belconnen United 3 (Sabrina Spinapolice (3)) Tuggeranong United 1 (Julie Ibarra)

Belwest Foxes 4 (Hope Wilkins (2), Elizabeth Pearson, Cian Maciejewski) Canberra FC 2 (Aurelia Bullock, Nicole Somi)

ANU WFC 0 Weston Creek 3 (Aleisha Tupper 23', Rachel Crittenden 26' (pen), 62')

Woden Valley 11 (Ashleigh Palombi (8), Jaline Hoek, Isabella Boag-Taylor, Emma Thornton) Brindabella Blues 0

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SOCCER CLINICS
SKILLZ (6-12), TINY TOTS (3-5)**



FFV Men's Metropolitan League & Women's Results

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MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTH-WEST: Ascot Vale 2 (A Barakat H Al Absawi) Heidelberg Stars 2 (H Abdulahi DD Ahmed), Oak Park 1 (G Celtik) Moreland Wolves 1 (S Jones), Keon Park 2 Light Utd 2 (E Ozkan C Kural), Northern Utd 1 Altona North 1 (D Byrnes), Yarra Jets 1 Tullamarine Jets 3 (O Ermiss H Aksoy 2), Reserves: Ascot Vale 1 Heidelberg Stars 2, Oak Park 0 Moreland Wolves 1, Keon Park 3 Light Utd 5, Northern Utd 4 Altona North 3, Yarra Jets 0 Tullamarine Jets 4 (O Kurucu A Turkmen 2)

MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST: Dandenong Warriors 2 (L Palmire 2) Harrisfield Hurricanes 1 (D Mayne), Ringwood City 2 (J Van Gulik T Munro) Caulfield Grammarians 1 (ND Keogh), St Kevins 1 (PA Lettief) Middle Park FC 3 (K Hogan M Furness), Parkmore 1 Old Mentonians 1, Reserves: Dandenong Warriors 2 Harrisfield Hurricanes 1, Ringwood City 1 Caulfield Grammarians 1, St Kevins 1 Middle Park FC 1, Parkmore 0 Old Mentonians 1,

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 1: Bayswater Strikers 2 (E Doughty 2) Doncaster Rovers 0, Ballarat & District 4 (T Curtain SJ Gentile) Bundoora Utd 2 (S Oddo), South Yarra 0 South Springvale 3 (A Martin 2 N Weragoda), Uni. of Melbourne 2 Monbulk 3, Brighton 3 Whitehorse Utd 5, Reserves: Bayswater Strikers 0 Doncaster Rovers 3, Ballarat Lady Devils 0 Bundoora Utd 5, South Yarra 0 South Springvale 1, Uni. of Melbourne 2 Monbulk 2, Brighton 1 Whitehorse Utd 1

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST: Fawkner 0 Western Suburbs 3 (R McConnell J Padic), Melbourne Bears 0 FC Bulleen Lions 3, La Trobe University 3 Western Eagles 1, Cairnlea 9 (T Hussein 2 M Maltaric N Cileli D Mutluel 2 S Calleja N Ozcan Own Goal) Whittlesea Ranges FC 1, Darebin Falcons 0 North Geelong Warriors 3 (HR Madunic N Milinkovic M Medved)

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST: Mornington 1 (N Aspris) Ashburton 1 (M Armitage), Albert Park 1 Southern Suburbs 1, Berwick City 3 Sandringham 3, Monash University 3 (AE Micsunescu 2 M Lounsbury) North Caulfield 5 (R Bach 3)

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Eltham Redbacks 2 (KM Hodgson L Peric) Melton 3 (A Aquilina 2 KK Thompson), Keilor Park 10 (H Hogarth 7) Maribyrnong Utd 0, Yarra Jets 1 Brunswick Zebras 1 (R Carr), Diamond Valley Utd 6 (S Gooney 2 J Simmons) Old Carey 1 (E Jenkins)

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Beaumaris 0 Seaford Utd 3, Endeavour Utd 0 Langwarrin 5, Knox City 0 Ashburton 0, South Melbourne 1 (Z Bickerstaffe) Croydon City Arrows 1 (C Christian), East Bentleigh 0 Box Hill Inter 3

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTH-WEST: Melbourne Knights 0 Mitchell Rangers 0, Northern Roosters 0 Watsonia Heights 7 (E McKee B Carse 2 M Francavilla S O'Connor G Cahill 2), Plenty Valley Lions 0 Fitzroy City 1, Yarra Jets 0 Brunswick Zebras 5 (EK Johns 4 K Palmer), Brunswick City 4 Tullamarine Jets 3

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST: Monash University 0 Kingston City 2, Berwick City 4 (C Anthony N Cosentino 3) Eltham Redbacks 1, Dandenong City 15 (N Nesci S Nesci MA Hubeek 7 M Nevjestic K Tutic 4 A Milusic) Sandringham 0, Endeavour Hills 5 (I Lagrasse) Mooroolbark 0, Skye Utd 3 (C Selleck K Babbage 2) Croydon City Arrows 1 (OJ Buchanan)

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE CENTRAL: Albert Park 1 Whittlesea Zebras 5 (M Bonaddio 3), Monash University 0 Swinburne University WSC 0,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 1: Cleeland Utd 4 Southern Suburbs 0, South Yarra 1 Kyneton District 1, Juventus Old Boys 1 La Trobe University 7

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST: Glenroy 4 (M Cavar 2 S Saric D Kozul) Melbourne University 1, Collingwood City 0 Moreland City 2, Upfield 1 Brunswick City 5,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST: Berwick City 4 Old Camberwell Grammar 3, South Yarra 0 Boroondara Eagles 0, Central Park AC Malvern 1 Old Scotch 3

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Plenty Valley Lions 2 Uni. of Melbourne 0,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Old Haileybury 2 Monash University 0, Central Park Rangers 0 Riversdale 2

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 NORTH-WEST: Cairnlea 1 Kyneton District 4, Diamond Valley Utd 2 Watsonia Heights 1, Williamstown 1 Eltham Redback FC 0

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 SOUTH-EAST: Beaumaris 4 Old Melburnians 1, Elwood City 1 Old Scotch 0, South Yarra 7 RMIT Redbacks 0, Ashburton 2 Monash University 2

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 5 NORTH-WEST: North Sunshine Eagles 1 Heidelberg Utd 1, Melbourne University 4 Mitchell Rangers 2, Melbourne Bears 1 Altona City 1,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 5 SOUTH-EAST: Springvale City 3 Beaumaris 2,

MENS MASTERS NORTH-WEST: Heidelberg Utd 3 Fitzroy City 3, Moreland City 1 Doc Utd 1,

MENS MASTERS CENTRAL: South Yarra 3 Caulfield Cobras 0, Ashburton 3 Brighton 2, Eastern Lions 2 Beaumaris 1

Mens	Metropolitan	League	North-West	Reserves
		P W D L F A PT		
Heidelberg Stars		9 6 2 1 19 12 20		
Moreland Wolves		9 5 2 2 19 11 17		
Tullamarine Jets		9 5 2 2 19 12 17		
Oak Park		9 4 4 1 21 11 16		
Altona North		9 4 4 1 19 12 16		
Light Utd		9 3 2 4 16 18 11		
Yarra Jets		9 2 3 4 14 19 9		
Ascot Vale		9 1 3 5 8 17 6		
Northern Utd		9 1 2 6 10 16 5		
Keon Park		9 1 2 6 14 31 5		

Mens	Metropolitan	League	North-West	Reserves
		P W D L F A PT		
Light Utd		9 7 1 1 36 16 22		
Heidelberg Stars		9 6 3 0 31 18 21		
Moreland Wolves		9 5 2 2 24 15 17		
Northern Utd		9 5 1 3 23 19 16		
Tullamarine Jets		9 4 3 2 24 13 15		
Yarra Jets		8 3 1 4 22 21 10		
Oak Park		9 3 1 5 16 21 10		
Ascot Vale		9 2 2 5 12 22 8		
Altona North		8 2 0 6 13 26 6		
Keon Park		9 0 0 9 9 39 0		

Mens	Metropolitan	League	South-East	Reserves
		P W D L F A PT		
Dandenong Warriors		8 5 2 2 16 11 17		
Middle Park FC		7 4 2 1 20 11 14		
Old Mentonians		7 3 3 1 17 11 12		
Ringwood City		8 3 2 3 12 15 11		
Harrisfield Hurricanes		7 2 4 1 15 12 10		
Caulfield Grammarians		8 2 3 3 14 15 9		
Parkmore		7 3 0 4 8 10 9		
Endeavour Hills		8 1 2 5 10 17 5		
St Kevins		8 1 2 5 13 23 5		

Mens	Metropolitan	League	South-East	Reserves
		P W D L F A PT		
Middle Park FC		7 6 1 0 24 3 19		
Ringwood City		8 5 2 1 18 8 17		
Dandenong Warriors		8 5 1 2 23 18 16		
Endeavour Hills		8 4 0 4 9 11 14 12		
St Kevins		8 2 4 2 9 13 10		
Parkmore		8 2 2 4 11 14 8		
Old Mentonians		8 2 2 4 15 26 8		
Harrisfield Hurricanes		7 2 1 4 10 10 7		
Caulfield Grammarians		8 0 1 7 11 26 1		

Womens	State	League	Div	1
		P W D L F A PT		
Ballarat & District		8 6 1 1 26 7 19		
Doncaster Rovers		8 6 1 1 24 6 19		
Bundoora Utd		8 6 0 2 30 10 18		
Uni. of Melbourne		8 6 0 2 25 13 18		
Bayswater Strikers		8 5 0 3 25 20 15		
Monbulk		8 3 2 3 12 11 11		
Whitehorse Utd		8 2 2 4 17 23 8		
South Springvale		8 2 0 6 12 19 8		
Brighton		8 1 0 7 7 32 3		
South Yarra		8 0 0 8 4 41 0		

Womens	State	League	Div	1	Reserves
		P W D L F A PT			
Doncaster Rovers		8 8 0 0 34 0 24			
Bundoora Utd		8 7 0 1 32 4 21			
Uni. of Melbourne		8 4 3 1 26 10 15			
South Springvale		8 4 1 3 14 13 13			
Bayswater Strikers		8 4 0 4 26 20 12			
Monbulk		8 2 3 3 12 14 9			

Boys Central - North 13 A:	Heidelberg Utd 5 Epping City 0, Bye South Melbourne , South Yarra 1 Whittlesea Ranges FC 4, Bundoora Utd 7 Alphington 1
Boys Central - North 13 B:	Whittlesea Ranges FC 8 Watsonia Heights 0, Port Melbourne Plenty Valley Lions, Heidelberg Stars Yarraville Glory , Mitchell Rangers 0 Malvern City 1, Yarra Jets 1 0 Bundoora Utd 6, Yarra Jets 2 4 FC Clifton Hill 1, Eltham Redback FC Maribyrnong Greens
Boys Central - North 14 A:	Richmond 1 110 Northcote City 2, Whittlesea Ranges FC 3 Preston Lions 0, Bundoora Utd 0 Diamond Valley Utd 1, Yarra Jets 1 South Melbourne 1
Boys Central - North 14 B:	Heidelberg Utd 4 Keon Park 0, Heidelberg Stars Bundoora Utd , Plenty Valley Lions 1 Richmond 2, South Yarra 1 Whittlesea Ranges FC 0, Alphington 0 Watsonia Heights 1
Boys Central - North 15 A:	Richmond Bye , Whittlesea Ranges FC 4 Banyule City 0, Heidelberg Stars Preston Lions , Bundoora Utd 2 FC Clifton Hill 1, Yarra Jets South Melbourne
Boys Central - North 15 B:	South Melbourne Diamond Valley Utd 1, Maribyrnong Greens 1 Diamond Valley Utd 2 1, Northcote City Bundoora Utd , Malvern City 3 Alphington 0, Melbourne Lions 1 Richmond 8
Boys Central - North 16 A:	Preston Lions 3 Malvern City 1, Richmond 1 2 Richmond 2 3, South Melbourne Bye , Whittlesea Ranges FC Epping City , Bundoora Utd 0 FC Clifton Hill 0
Boys Central - North 16 B:	Heidelberg Utd Yarra Jets , Richmond 0 Yarraville Glory 1, Bundoora Utd 3 Yarraville Glory 0

Boys East - North East 12 A:	Box Hill Inter 1 Monash City 3, Eastern Lions 1 FC Bulleen Lions 5, Glen Waverley 0 Doncaster Rovers 5, Knox City 1 Ashburton 0
Boys East - North East 12 B:	Oakleigh Cannons 0 Nunawading City FC 2, FC Bulleen Lions 4 Mooroolbark 0, Boroondara Eagles 2 Ashburton 1, Doncaster Rovers Manningham , Eltham Redback FC Riversdale
Boys East - North East 12 C:	Boronia 1 FC Bulleen Lions 2, Knox City 1 Knox City 1, Sherbrooke Rangers 11 Eltham Redback FC DOC Utd Doncaster Rovers , Waverley Victory Bye
Boys East - North East 12 D:	Riversdale 5 Ashburton 0

Boys East - North East 13 A:	Box Hill Inter 1 Monash City 3, Eastern Lions 1 FC Bulleen Lions 5, Glen Waverley 0 Doncaster Rovers 5, Knox City 1 Ashburton 0
Boys East - North East 13 B:	Oakleigh Cannons 0 Nunawading City FC 2, FC Bulleen Lions 4 Mooroolbark 0, Boroondara Eagles 2 Ashburton 1, Doncaster Rovers Manningham , Eltham Redback FC Riversdale
Boys East - North East 13 C:	Boronia 1 FC Bulleen Lions 2, Knox City 1 Knox City 1, Sherbrooke Rangers 11 Eltham Redback FC DOC Utd Doncaster Rovers , Waverley Victory Bye
Boys East - North East 13 D:	Riversdale 5 Ashburton 0

Boys East - North East 14 A:	Box Hill Inter 1 Monash City 3, Eastern Lions 1 FC Bulleen Lions 5, Glen Waverley 0 Doncaster Rovers 5, Knox City 1 Ashburton 0
Boys East - North East 14 B:	Oakleigh Cannons 0 Nunawading City FC 2, FC Bulleen Lions 4 Mooroolbark 0, Boroondara Eagles 2 Ashburton 1, Doncaster Rovers Manningham , Eltham Redback FC Riversdale
Boys East - North East 14 C:	Boronia 1 FC Bulleen Lions 2, Knox City 1 Knox City 1, Sherbrooke Rangers 11 Eltham Redback FC DOC Utd Doncaster Rovers , Waverley Victory Bye
Boys East - North East 14 D:	Riversdale 5 Ashburton 0

Boys East - North East 15 A:	Box Hill Inter 1 Monash City 3, Eastern Lions 1 FC Bulleen Lions 5, Glen Waverley 0 Doncaster Rovers 5, Knox City 1 Ashburton 0
Boys East - North East 15 B:	Oakleigh Cannons 0 Nunawading City FC 2, FC Bulleen Lions 4 Mooroolbark 0, Boroondara Eagles 2 Ashburton 1, Doncaster Rovers Manningham , Eltham Redback FC Riversdale
Boys East - North East 15 C:	Boronia 1 FC Bulleen Lions 2, Knox City 1 Knox City 1, Sherbrooke Rangers 11 Eltham Redback FC DOC Utd Doncaster Rovers , Waverley Victory Bye
Boys East - North East 15 D:	Riversdale 5 Ashburton 0

Boys East - North East 16 A:	Box Hill Inter 1 Monash City 3, Eastern Lions 1 FC Bulleen Lions 5, Glen Waverley 0 Doncaster Rovers 5, Knox City 1 Ashburton 0
Boys East - North East 16 B:	Oakleigh Cannons 0 Nunawading City FC 2, FC Bulleen Lions 4 Mooroolbark 0, Boroondara Eagles 2 Ashburton 1, Doncaster Rovers Manningham , Eltham Redback FC Riversdale
Boys East - North East 16 C:	Boronia 1 FC Bulleen Lions 2, Knox City 1 Knox City 1, Sherbrooke Rangers 11 Eltham Redback FC DOC Utd Doncaster Rovers , Waverley Victory Bye
Boys East - North East 16 D:	Riversdale 5 Ashburton 0

Boys East - North East 17 A:	Box Hill Inter 1 Monash City 3, Eastern Lions 1 FC Bulleen Lions 5, Glen Waverley 0 Doncaster Rovers 5, Knox City 1 Ashburton 0
Boys East - North East 17 B:	Oakleigh Cannons 0 Nunawading City FC 2, FC Bulleen Lions 4 Mooroolbark 0, Boroondara Eagles 2 Ashburton 1, Doncaster Rovers Manningham , Eltham Redback FC Riversdale
Boys East - North East 17 C:	Boronia 1 FC Bulleen Lions 2, Knox City 1 Knox City 1, Sherbrooke Rangers 11 Eltham Redback FC DOC Utd Doncaster Rovers , Waverley Victory Bye
Boys East - North East 17 D:	Riversdale 5 Ashburton 0

Boys East - North East 18 A:	Box Hill Inter 1 Monash City 3, Eastern Lions 1 FC Bulleen Lions 5, Glen Waverley 0 Doncaster Rovers 5, Knox City 1 Ashburton 0
Boys East - North East 18 B:	Oakleigh Cannons 0 Nunawading City FC 2, FC Bulleen Lions 4 Mooroolbark 0, Boroondara Eagles 2 Ashburton 1, Doncaster Rovers Manningham , Eltham Redback FC Riversdale
Boys East - North East 18 C:	Boronia 1 FC Bulleen Lions 2, Knox City 1 Knox City 1, Sherbrooke Rangers 11 Eltham Redback FC DOC Utd Doncaster Rovers , Waverley Victory Bye
Boys East - North East 18 D:	Riversdale 5 Ashburton 0

Boys East - North East 19 A:	Box Hill Inter 1 Monash City 3, Eastern Lions 1 FC Bulleen Lions 5, Glen Waverley 0 Doncaster Rovers 5, Knox City 1 Ashburton 0
Boys East - North East 19 B:	Oakleigh Cannons 0 Nunawading City FC 2, FC Bulleen Lions 4 Mooroolbark 0, Boroondara Eagles 2 Ashburton 1, Doncaster Rovers Manningham , Eltham Redback FC Riversdale
Boys East - North East 19 C:	Boronia 1 FC Bulleen Lions 2, Knox City 1 Knox City 1, Sherbrooke Rangers 11 Eltham Redback FC DOC Utd Doncaster Rovers , Waverley Victory Bye
Boys East - North East 19 D:	Riversdale 5 Ashburton 0

Boys East - North East 20 A:	Box Hill Inter 1 Monash City 3, Eastern Lions 1 FC Bulleen Lions 5, Glen Waverley 0 Doncaster Rovers 5, Knox City 1 Ashburton 0
Boys East - North East 20 B:	Oakleigh Cannons 0 Nunawading City FC 2, FC Bulleen Lions 4 Mooroolbark 0, Boroondara Eagles 2 Ashburton 1, Doncaster Rovers Manningham , Eltham Redback FC Riversdale
Boys East - North East 20 C:	Boronia 1 FC Bulleen Lions 2, Knox City 1 Knox City 1, Sherbrooke Rangers 11 Eltham Redback FC DOC Utd Doncaster Rovers , Waverley Victory Bye
Boys East - North East 20 D:	Riversdale 5 Ashburton 0

Boys East - North East 21 A:	Box Hill Inter 1 Monash City 3, Eastern Lions 1 FC Bulleen Lions 5, Glen Waverley 0 Doncaster Rovers 5, Knox City 1 Ashburton 0
Boys East - North East 21 B:	Oakleigh Cannons 0 Nunawading City FC 2, FC Bulleen Lions 4 Mooroolbark 0, Boroondara Eagles 2 Ashburton 1, Doncaster Rovers Manningham , Eltham Redback FC Riversdale
Boys East - North East 21 C:	Boronia 1 FC Bulleen Lions 2, Knox City 1 Knox City 1, Sherbrooke Rangers 11 Eltham Redback FC DOC Utd Doncaster Rovers , Waverley Victory Bye
Boys East - North East 21 D:	Riversdale 5 Ashburton 0

Boys East - North East 22 A:	Box Hill Inter 1 Monash City 3, Eastern Lions 1 FC Bulleen Lions 5, Glen Waverley 0 Doncaster Rovers 5, Knox City 1 Ashburton 0
Boys East - North East 22 B:	Oakleigh Cannons 0 Nunawading City FC 2, FC Bulleen Lions 4 Mooroolbark 0, Boroondara Eagles 2 Ashburton 1, Doncaster Rovers Manningham , Eltham Redback FC Riversdale
Boys East - North East 22 C:	Boronia 1 FC Bulleen Lions 2, Knox City 1 Knox City 1, Sherbrooke Rangers 11 Eltham Redback FC DOC Utd Doncaster Rovers , Waverley Victory Bye
Boys East - North East 22 D:	Riversdale 5 Ashburton 0

Boys East - North East 23 A:	Box Hill Inter 1 Monash City 3, Eastern Lions 1 FC Bulleen Lions 5, Glen Waverley 0 Doncaster Rovers 5, Knox City 1 Ashburton 0
Boys East - North East 23 B:	Oakleigh Cannons 0 Nunawading City FC 2, FC Bulleen Lions 4 Mooroolbark 0, Boroondara Eagles 2 Ashburton 1, Doncaster Rovers Manningham , Eltham Redback FC Riversdale
Boys East - North East 23 C:	Boronia 1 FC Bulleen Lions 2, Knox City 1 Knox City 1, Sherbrooke Rangers 11 Eltham Redback FC DOC Utd Doncaster Rovers , Waverley Victory Bye
Boys East - North East 23 D:	Riversdale 5 Ashburton 0

Whitehorse Utd	8	2	1	5	10	21	7
Brighton	8	1	4	3	8	20	7
Ballarat Lady Devils	8	1	1	6	5	17	4
South Yarra	8	0	1	7	3	51	1

Womens	State	League	Div	2	North-West
		P W D L F A PT			
Cairnlea		8 7 0 1 0 36 5 22			
La Trobe University		8 7 0 1 29 5 21			
Western Eagles		8 6 0 2 31 6 18			
FC Bulleen Lions		8 5 2 2 14 3 17			
North Geelong Warriors		8 4 0 4 19 9 12			
Fawkner		8 3 1 4 16 18 10			
Western Suburbs		8 3 1 4 10 19 10			
Darebin Falcons		8 2 1 5 11 24 7			
Whittlesea Ranges FC		8 0 0 8 6 38 0			
Melbourne Bears		8 0 0 8 1 46 0			

Womens	State	League	Div	2	South-East
		P W D L F A PT			
Sandringham		8 6 2 0 23 6 20			
Berwick City		8 4 1 3 26 15 13			
Albert Park		8 4 1 3 21 12 13			
Noble Park		7 4 0 3 18 18 12			
Southern Suburbs		8 3 2 3 13 14 11			
Ashburton		8 3 2 3 10 12 11			
Mornington		8 3 2 3 11 14 11			
North Caulfield		8 2 1 5 13 29 7			
Monash University		8 1 3 4 12 18 6			
Mooroolbark		7 1 2 4 6 15 5			

Womens	State	League	Div	3	North-West
		P W D L F A PT			
Keilor Park		8 8 0 0 52 14 24			
Yarra Jets		8 6 1 1 26 13 19			
Brunswick Zebras		8 5 2 1 18 9 17			
Diamond Valley Utd		8 4 1 3 21 13 13			
Eltham Redbacks		8 3 1 4 17 17 10			
Melton		8 3 1 4 11 20 10			
Sunshine George Cross		7 3 0 4 15 15 9			
Old Carey		8 3 0 5 18 29 9			
Kyneton District		7 1 0 6 7 22 3			
Maribyrnong Utd		8 0 0 8 4 37 0			

Womens	State	League	Div	3	South-East
		P W D L F A PT			
Seaford Utd		8 7 1 0 49 4 22			
Box Hill Inter		8 6 1 1 30 8 19			
South Melbourne		8 5 2 1 34 16 17			
Croydon City Arrows		8 5 1 2 22 11 16			
Langwarrin		8 4 3 1 31 8 15			
Knox City		8 2 2 4 13 20 8			
Ashburton		8 1 1 6 12 30 4			
Beaumaris		8 1 1 6 18 42 4			
Endeavour Utd		7 1 0 6 16 35 3			
East Bentleigh		7 1 0 6 7 58 3			

Womens	Metropolitan	League			North-West		
		P	W	D	L	F	A
Brunswick City		8	8	0	0	74	6
Melbourne Knights		8	5	2	1	32	6
Mitchell Rangers		8	5	2	1	20	6
Fitzroy City		8	5	2	1	19	5
Brunswick Zebras		8	5	0	3	37	17
Watsonia Heights		8	3	0	5	16	25
Plenty Valley Lions		8	3	0	5	10	29
Tullamarine Jets		8	2	0	6	19	25
Yarra Jets		8	1	0	7	11	33
Northern Roosters		8	0	0	8	2	68



Eira	1	Hampton	2	Brighton	7	Glen	Eira	1																	
Boys South East 16 A: Benteleigh Greens	North Caulfield	, Beaumaris	2	Caulfield Cobras	1	Hampton	5	East Benteleigh	1	Brighton	7	Benteleigh Greens	1	Bayside Knights	9	Brighton	0								
Boys South-South East 13 C: Frankston Pines	1	Bayside Argonauts	0	Beaumaris	0	North Caulfield	1	Berwick City	2	Kingston City	1	Dandenong City	1	Keysborough	2	Lyndale Utd	4	Casey Comets	1	Brighton	3	Aspendale	1		
Boys South-South East 16 B: East Benteigh Peninsula	1	North Caulfield	Southern Stars	, Berwick City	8	Hampton	0	Brighton	0	Heatherton	Utd	10													
Boys South 12 A: Berwick City	Bye	, Doveton	0	Mornington	4	Peninsula	4	Dandenong	Thunder	1	, South Eastern Piranhas	7	Dandenong	City	3										
Boys South 12 B: Berwick City	4	Baxter	0	Endeavour Utd	0	Hampton Park	Utd	0	Peninsula	1	Doveton	4	Mornington	1	Langwarrin	1									
Boys South 12 C: Berwick City	0	Heatherton	Utd	5	Berwick City	1	Westernport	1	, Casey Panthers	4	Peninsula	2	Mornington	0	Carrum Utd	1	, James Cook	FC	1	Keysborough	3				
Boys South 13 A: Berwick City	0	Dandenong	City	1	Langwarrin	12	Hampton Park	Utd	0	, South Eastern Piranhas	2	Doveton	0	Mornington	0	Springvale	White	Eagles	6						
Boys South 13 B: Casey Comets	9	Peninsula	0	Baxter	0	Endeavour Utd	2	Berwick City	0	Southern Stars	2	Langwarrin	4	Mornington	0	White Star	Dandenong	4	Carrum	Utd	1				
Boys South 14 A: Casey Comets	3	Doveton	1	Berwick City	0	South Eastern Piranhas	3	Dandenong	Thunder	Hampton Park	Utd	Peninsula	Bye	, Mornington	5	South	Springvale	2							
Boys South 14 B: Berwick City	1	Lyndale Utd	3	Carrum Utd	1	Peninsula	3	Keysborough	2	Langwarrin	0	Seaford	Utd	1	Doveton	0									
Boys South 14 C: Baxter	0	Casey Panthers	7	Dandenong	Warriors	Westernport	, Hampton Park	Utd	Casey Comets	, Rosebud	1	Dandenong	City	8											
Boys South 15 A: Berwick City	3	South Eastern Piranhas	1	Dandenong	City	1	Doveton	1	Dandenong	Thunder	1	Peninsula	0	Endeavour Utd	Bye	, Springvale	White	Eagles	Keysborough						
Boys South 15 B: Frankston Pines	0	Mornington	22	Casey Comets	0	Carrum Utd	7	Baxter	1	James Cook	FC	3	Berwick City	6	Peninsula	1	Langwarrin	1	Endeavour	Utd	1				
Boys South 16 A: Casey Comets	Peninsula	, Berwick City	1	South Eastern Piranhas	1	Hampton Park	Utd	Mornington	, Langwarrin	2	Keysborough	7	White Star	Dandenong	Bye										
Boys West 12 A: Green Gully Cavaliers	Altona City	, Ballarat Academy of Soccer	Sydenham Park	, Brimbank Stallions	2	Keilor Park	1	Hoppers Crossing	0	Melbourne Knights	8	, St Albans Saints	0	North Geelong Warriors	3										
Boys West 12 B: Green Gully Cavaliers	Altona City	, Bye	Keilor Park	2	, Bell Park	3	Laverton Park	0	Sunshine Heights	Keilor Park	1	, Spring Hills	0	Cairnlea	0										
Boys West 13 A: Green Gully Cavaliers	Altona City	, Sunshine George Cross	3	Werribee City	0	Hoppers Crossing	0	Melbourne Knights	8	Keilor Park	8	Brimbank City	0	, St Albans Saints	Brimbank Stallions										
Boys West 13 B: Green Gully Cavaliers	Keilor Park	, Altona East Phoenix	3	Cairnlea	3	, Ballarat Academy of Soccer	Williamstown	, Brimbank Stallions	1	Laverton Park	8	, GRFA	Bye												
Boys West 13 C: Oak Park SC	0	Sunshine George Cross	5	Hoppers Crossing	Williamstown	, North Geelong Warriors	Bye	, Spring Hills	0	Westvale	6														
Boys West 14 A: Altona Magic	Bye	, Green Gully Cavaliers	Altona City	, Altona East Phoenix	1	North Geelong Warriors	1	, Keilor Park	Green Gully Cavaliers	, Geelong	0	Sunshine George Cross	1												
Boys West 14 B: Green Gully Cavaliers	Keilor Park	, Bye	Brimbank Stallions	18	North Lions	0	Hoppers Crossing	1	Williamstown	11	, Sydenham Park	0	Keilor Park	4											
Boys West 16 A: Altona Magic	Bye	, Green Gully Cavaliers	Sunshine George Cross	, Altona East Phoenix	1	North Geelong Warriors	1	, Keilor Park	Sydenham Park	, Sunshine Heights	Melbourne Knights	, Westgate	0	Werribee City	6										
Boys West 16 B: Bye	Melton	, Hoppers Crossing	2	Williamstown	5	Satellite City	Utd	Spring Hills	, Western Eagles	Keilor Park	, St Albans Saints	Cairnlea													
Girls Central - North East - East 18: Diamond Valley	Utd	18	Yarra Jets	0	Bye	Richmond	, Boroondara Eagles	3	Knox City	0	Whitehorse Utd	2	Whitehorse Utd	1											
Girls North West 12 A: St Albans Saints	Banyule City	, Boroondara Eagles	1	Ashburton	3	Bundoora Utd	0	Box Hill Inter	1	Richmond	3	FC Bulleen Lions	1	Richmond	3	Whitehorse Utd	0								
Girls North West 12 B: Essendon Royals	2	Pascoe Vale	6	Alphington	5	Eltham Redback FC	1	Brunswick Zebras	0	Diamond Valley Utd	5	Kensington JGSC	1	Keilor Park	2	Watsonia Heights	Green Gully Cavaliers								
Girls South East - South 18: Bye	Springvale	White	Eagles	Casey Comets	, East Benteigh	2	, Langwarrin	0	Brighton	3															
Girls South East 12 A: Berwick City	0	Brighton	7	Sherbrooke Rangers	1	North Caulfield	Ringwood City																		
Girls South East 12 B: Glen Waverley	0	Sandringham	3	Aspendale	2	Brighton	5	Bayside Knights	0	Waverley Victory	4	, Bye	Casey Panthers												
Girls West - North West - North 18: Keilor Wolves	0	Pascoe Vale	2	, Ballarat & District	1	Epping City	0	Heidelberg Stars	1	Altona City	1	Green Gully Cavaliers	1	Heidelberg Stars	1	Altona City	1	Green Gully Cavaliers	1	Heidelberg Stars	1	Altona City	1		
Girls Central - North East - East 13-14 A: Boroondara	Eagles	1	Oakleigh Cannons	1	Croydon City	Arrows	5	FC Bulleen Lions	2	1	Richmond	1	0	FC Bulleen Lions	2	1	Richmond	1	0	FC Bulleen Lions	2	1	Richmond	1	
Girls Central - North East - East 15-16 B: Nunawading	City FC	South Melbourne	, Box Hill Inter	5	Boroondara Eagles	2	1	Alphington	3	Boroondara Eagles	1	1	Oakleigh Cannons	2	DOC Utd	Ashburton	0								
Girls Central - North East - East 15-16 C: Greenvale	Utd	Brandon Park	, Glen Waverley	5	Waverley Victory	3	, FC Bulleen Lions	1	Oakleigh Cannons	2	, DOC Utd	Watsonia Heights													
Girls Central - North East - East 15-16 D: Boroondara	Eastern Lions	, Eltham Redback FC	Croydon City	Arrows	, Yarra Jets	10	South Yarra	0																	
Girls Central - North East - East 18 A: Girls South East	-	South 13-14 A: North Caulfield	1	Peninsula	0	Berwick City	2	Brighton	3	Hampton	0	Carrum Utd	4	Sandringham	Bye										
Girls South East - South 13-14 B: Carrum Utd	4	Hampton	0	Mornington	3	Brighton	2	2	Sandringham	2	North Caulfield	, Brighton	1	3	Southern Stars	0	Casey Panthers	Sandringham							
Girls South East - South 13-14 C: Mornington	1	White Star	Dandenong	3	Sandringham	Oakleigh Cannons	, East Benteigh	Endeavour Utd	, Glen Eira	Seaford Utd	, Berwick City	2	Langwarrin	3	Yarra Jets	2	Rosebud	2							
Girls South East - South 15-16 A: Glen Eira	Mornington	, Carrum Utd	Bye	, Dandenong	City	6	Southern Stars	0	Baxter	2	Sandringham	5	Peninsula	4	North	Caulfield	0								
Girls South East - South 15-16 B: Carrum Utd	1	Brighton	0	Sandringham	6	Bayside Knights	2	Peninsula	9	Mornington	0	Casey Panthers	3	Langwarrin	4	North	Caulfield	Noble	Park						
Girls West - North West - North 13-14 A: Brunswick	Zebras	2	Keilor Park	4	Watsonia Heights	Green Gully Cavaliers	, Bundoora Utd	11	Sunbury Utd	0	Essendon Royals	Pascoe Vale	, St Albans Saints	Banyule City											
Girls West - North West - North 13-14 B: Sydenham	Park	3	Yarra Jets	6	Keilor Park	1	Diamond Valley Utd	0	Williamstown	2	Cairnlea	0	Brunswick Zebras	0	Bundoora Utd	1									
Girls West - North West - North 15-16 A: Heidelberg	Utd	0	Essendon Royals	6	Sydenham Park	1	Keilor Park	3	Brunswick Zebras	0	Bundoora Utd	5	Werribee City	2	Banyule City	2	, Bye	Whittlesea Ranges	FC						
Girls West - North West - North 15-16 B: Bacchus	Marsh	4	Brimbank City	1	Cairnlea	6	Whittlesea Utd	0	Bye	Altona City	, Spring Hills	0	Watsonia Heights	0	North City	Lions	0	Keilor Park	1	Essendon Royals	0	Brunswick Zebras	2		
Central SSF Boys 11 Joeyes (Sun): FC Clifton	Hill	1	Port Melbourne	1	, Yarraville	Glory	Melbourne Athletic JFC	, Alphington	5	Malvern City	0	Melbourne Lions	South Yarra	, Yarra Jets	0	South Melbourne	5								
Central SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sun): South Melbourne	1	FC Demons	, FC Clifton	Hill	Malvern City	, South Yarra	0	Port Melbourne	5	Yarra Jets	0	South Melbourne	2	3											
East SSF Boys 11 Joeyes (Sat): Glen Waverley	3	, Montrose	Knox City	, Boronia	7	Glen Waverley	2	2	, Croydon City	Arrows	1	Mooroolbark	1												
East SSF Boys 11 Joeyes (Sun): Eastern Lions	4	Knox Utd	1	1	, Croydon City	Arrows	1	Oakleigh Cannons	1	3	, Waverley Victory	0	Knox Utd	2	5	, Montrose	Oakleigh Cannons	2	, Oakleigh Cannons	3	5	Ringwood City	0		
East SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sat): Croydon City	Arrows	1	Glen Waverley	2	1	, Eastern Lions	5	Mooroolbark	2	0	, Mooroolbark	1	3	Glen Waverley	1	1									
East SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sun): Oakleigh	Cannons	1	1	Eastern Lions	1	, Glen Waverley	0	Brandon Park	5	, Cardinia Utd	1	Oakleigh Cannons	26	, Ringwood City	Knox Utd										
East SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos/Joeyes (Sun): Monash	City	Oakleigh Cannons	2	, Cardinia Utd	Waverley Wanderers	, Waverley Victory	3	Oakleigh Cannons	1	3															
North East SSF Boys 11 Joeyes (Sun): Ashburton	1	7	Wonga Park	Wizards JFC	2	, Eltham	North	3	Manningham	1	, Eltham	North	2	DOC Utd	, Ashburton	2	0	Eltham	North	1	4	, Ashburton	3	3	
North East SSF Boys 11 Joeyes (Sat): Ashburton	2	1	Whitehorse Utd	2	4	, Whitehorse Utd	1	1	Doncaster Rovers	2	, Box Hill Inter	2	Boroondara Eagles	1	1	, FC Bulleen Lions	15	Ashburton	10	, FC Bulleen Lions	2	Boroondara Eagles	2		
North East SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sun): FC Bulleen	Lions	10	Eltham	North	2	0	, FC Bulleen Lions	2	Nunawading City	FC	2	, Ashburton	2	Eltham	North	1	, Manningham	5	Nunawading City	FC	1	0	, Ashburton	3	
North East-Central SSF Boys 11 Joeyes (Sat): FC	Demons	Bye	, Richmond	1	1	Boroondara Eagles	1	, Doncaster Rovers	4	Whitehorse Utd	1	0	, Whitehorse Utd	2	2	Riversdale	2	, Box Hill Inter	2	Whitehorse Utd	7	, FC Bulleen Lions	1		
North East-Central SSF Boys 11 Kang Yellow (Sat):	Bye	Riversdale	, Doncaster Rovers	3	FC Bulleen Lions	1	1	, Richmond	1	0	FC Bulleen Lions	2	1	, Box Hill Inter	2	Whitehorse Utd	7	, FC Bulleen Lions	1	, Ashburton	3	Whitehorse Utd	2		
North East-Central SSF Boys 11 Kang Blue (Sat):	Richmond	1	3	FC Bulleen Lions	2	1	, Ashburton	0	FC Bulleen Lions	1	5	, Boroondara Eagles	1	Richmond	2	1	, Epping City	Bye	, Elwood City	4	Doncaster Rovers	0			
North East-Central SSF Boys 11 Kang Purple (Sun):	Mooroolbark	0	Boroondara Eagles	1	, Croydon City	Arrows	4	Ashburton	2	2	, Ringwood City	Ashburton	1												
North SSF Boys 11 Joeyes (Sun): Whittlesea	Ranges	FC	4	Banyule City	0	, Bundoora Utd	1	3	Diamond Valley Utd	1	, Mitchell	Rangers	1	Lalor Utd	5	, Watsonia Heights	Northcote City								
North SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sun): Whittlesea	Ranges	2	6	Epping City	1	, Banyule City	Whittlesea Ranges	1	, Northcote City	Bundoora Utd	2	, Preston Lions	2	0	Preston Lions	1	5	, Bundoora Utd	1	4	Lalor	1			
North West SSF Boys 11 Joeyes Orange (Sun): Bruns-	wick City	2	Oak Park SC	2	, Essendon Royals	9	Gisborne	1	, Flemington	Eagles	1	Fawkner	1	, Pascoe Vale	1	Meadow Park	Eagles	1	Sunbury Utd	3	Pascoe Vale	2	1		
North West SSF Boys 11 Joeyes Purple (Sun): Essendon	Royals	3	Hume City	8	, Flemington	Eagles	5	North City	Lions	0	Clendon	2	Whitehorse Utd	1	0	Brunswick City	5	, Brunswick Zebras	0	Meadow Park	Eagles	5			
North West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Red (Sun): Fawkner	5	Essendon Royals	2	0	, Gisborne	Brunswick Zebras	, Pascoe Vale	7	Moreland City	2	, Keilor Wolves	4	Light Utd	2	, Upfield	0	Essendon Royals	1	5						
North West-North-Central SSF Girls 11 (Sun): Yarra	Jets	Essendon Royals	, Bye	South Melbourne	1	, South Melbourne	22	Fawkner	3	, FC Clifton	Hill	Greenvale Utd	, South Yarra	Banyule City	2	, Kensington JGSC	0	Banyule City	1	5					
North-Central SSF Boys 11 Joeyes/Kangaroos (Sun):	South Melbourne	Bundoora Utd	2	, Banyule City	Whittlesea Ranges	FC	, Bye	Sporting Whittlesea	, Yarra Jets	0	Bundoora Utd	1	1	, Watsonia Heights	FC Clifton Hill										
South East SSF Boys 11 Joeyes Blue (Sat): Glen Eira	Sandringham	City	, Brighton	3	4	Brighton	1	0	, East Benteigh	2	Hampton	2	3	, Hampton	1	5	Bayside Argonauts	1	, Brighton	2	Beaumaris	2	, Dandenong Warriors	0	
South East SSF Boys 11 Joeyes Green (Sat): Sandringham	City	2	Bye	, Brighton	1	0	Glen Eira	1	3	, East Benteigh	1	Sandringham	City	1	, Beaumaris	1	Beaumaris	2	, Brighton	2	2	Glen Eira	3	4	
South East SSF Boys 11 Joeyes Yellow (Sun): North	Caulfield	2	0	Brighton	2	, Caulfield Cobras	2	Sandringham	City	4	, Bayside Knights	1	Hampton	1	, North	Caulfield	1	1	East Benteigh	1					
South East SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sat): Brighton	2	Bye	, Sandringham	City	1	3	Hampton	0	, Brighton	1	Sandringham	City	2	, Doveton	6	Bayside Argonauts	1								
South East SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sun): North	Caulfield	1	Sandringham	City	2	, Bayside Knights	0	Hampton	4	, North	Caulfield	2	Benteigh Greens	, Aspendale	0	Sandringham	City	1	5						
South East-South SSF Girls 11 Joeyes Pink (Sun):	East Benteigh	Hampton	, North	Caulfield	1	Brighton	2	, North	Caulfield	2	2	Bayside Argonauts	2	, Mornington	Sandringham	2	, Brighton	1	Sandringham	1					
South SSF Boys 11 Joeyes Blue (Sun): Hampton	Park	Utd	Doveton	, Langwarrin	6	Peninsula	1	6	, Peninsula	2	0	Endeavour Utd	5	, Berwick City	0	Noble	Park	2	, Casey Panthers	1	Mornington	1			
South SSF Boys 11 Joeyes Lime (Sun): Peninsula	1	South	Springvale	4	, Springvale	White	Eagles	2	Heatherton	Utd	3	, Berwick City	1	4	Langwarrin	6	, Berwick City	2	0	Dandenong	Thunder	4	, Casey Panthers	Hampton Park	Utd
South SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Blue (Sun): Langw																									

28

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Comets shoot down Inter at Wembley

By Emma Fields

Round nine produced a weekend of upsets in the Womens Premier League (WPL) with Casey Comets slaying Box Hill Inter at Wembley Park on Friday night then South Melbourne grabbing their first win of the season defeating the in-form Ashburton.

Heidelberg's good form continues with a 4-1 victory over Preston with goal sneak Melanie Camilleri contributing two goals while, Bendigo and Altona shared the spoils with a one-all draw.

The Comets 2-1 win at Wembley Park on Friday night was almost a year to the day when they defeated Box Hill in 2009 to end the reigning premiers four-year unbeaten run at home.

The Comets have form at Wembley Park, having not lost there in five years.

The first half had all the action as both teams found the target. Inter's goal coming courtesy of the powerful Kat Smith while Caroline McEvoy and Nicola Prins both contributed for Casey.

Despite suffering its first loss for 2010 Box Hill retain top position in the WPL, however its a worrying sign for Inter, which is stacked with Melbourne Victory players, which only managed draws against Bendigo and Sandringham in recent weeks.

The young Casey team on the other hand will take confidence from the big win, their fourth of the year, which see them knocking on the door of the top four.

Ashburton missed out on the chance to regain top position in the WPL when South Melbourne managed their first win of the year with a sweet 2-0 victory on Sunday afternoon at McIvor Reserve.

Two former Asburton players did the damage for South Melbourne after a scoreless first half.

Jade Barden was on target from long range to get South on the board 15 minutes in the second half. Lucrece Lavrdue did a lovely left foot finish from outside the box to seal South's second 20 minutes later.

After finishing third in the league in 2009, South Melbourne has suffered a spectacular fall from grace in 2010, remaining at the bottom of the table despite the weekends win.

Assistance coach of South Melbourne, Matt Shaw, said it was a relief to finally be 'off the mark' and get the clubs first win of the season.

"We've been working hard on the game plan and working hard to get the results," he said.

Shaw attributed his teams win to commitment to the ball and quality defending, and praised the contribution of Laura Spiranovic. who didn't score but put significant pressure on Ashburton's defence.

"The challenge now is to improve the aspects of the game we have been working on, hopefully it's the start of some thing," said Shaw.

Last years runner-up Heidelberg United put their stamp on the game early against

the Preston Lions when 2009 Golden Boot, Camilleri found range in the third minute to put the Bergers in front.

Preston responded in the 11th minute when Jacinta Mazza curled a sublime free kick into the top left from 25 yards out to even up the match.

Two minutes later Heidelberg's Sarah Groenewald's cross found Belinda Pannella and she passed to team mate Julia Nicolaci ,who found the back of the net to give the Bergers a 2-1 advantage.

Substitute Meghan Archer added to Heidelberg's score when she headed in a Camilleri cross in the seven minutes into the second half then Camilleri got her second ten minutes later to seal the 4-1 win.

Altona's first trip to Bendigo resulted in a one-all draw with the Vipers, but gave them a valuable point to keep them out of the bottom two for the first time this season.

Talented youngster Sarah Richardson scored for the Vipers and Alexandra Miller was Altona's single goal scorer.

Altona are the new team in the WPL and despite only winning one match they have been competitive at the top level.

Half way through the 2010 WPL season its no surprise to see Box Hill again topping the league but Sandringham, who had a bye this week, are equal on points and in second place on goal difference. Ashburton and Heidelberg are in second and third with Casey just outside in fifth position.

Next week South Melbourne will be tested when they take on Box Hill, Sandringham are back in action against Bendigo, Heidelberg make their inaugural trip to HC Kim Reserve to play Altona while the Comets will play Preston.



Talia Silivestros makes a valiant attempt to score for Casey Comets, opposed by Box Hill goalie Alice Ryan and Georgia Oudeman.

PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Laura Croft (Casey) tackles Deanna Niceski (Box Hill). PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

WPL RESULTS

Box Hill Inter 1
(K Smith)
Casey Comets 2
(C McEvoy NJ Prins)

Preston Lions 1 (J Mazza)
Heidelberg Utd 4 (M Camilleri 2 M Archer JL Nicolaci),

Bendigo Vipers 1
(S Richardson)
Altona City 1 (A Miller),

South Melbourne Womens 2
(J Barnden)
Ashburton 0

Reserves: Box Hill Inter 1 Casey Comets 2, Preston Lions 0 Heidelberg Utd 6, BASL 2 Altona City 2, South Melbourne 1 Ashburton 1

WPL NEXT ROUND

Box Hill Inter v South Melbourne
Wembley Park
Fri 18 Jun KO 8:30PM

Bendigo Vipers v Sandringham
Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve
Sat 19 Jun KO 3:00PM

Altona City v Heidelberg Utd
HC Kim Reserve
Sun 20 Jun KO 1:00PM

Preston Lions v Casey Comets
BT Connor Reserve
Sun 20 Jun KO 1:00PM

Bye v Ashburton

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Box Hill Inter	8	5	2	1	18	5	17
Sandringham	8	5	2	1	13	7	17
Ashburton	8	5	0	3	22	13	15
Heidelberg Utd	7	5	0	2	18	9	15
Casey Comets	7	4	0	3	11	10	12
Bendigo Vipers	7	2	2	3	6	9	8
Altona City	8	1	2	5	4	15	5
Preston Lions	8	1	2	5	8	21	5
South Melbourne	7	1	0	6	4	15	3

WPL RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ashburton	8	6	2	0	29	6	20
Sandringham	8	5	1	2	14	11	16
Heidelberg Utd	7	4	2	1	15	6	14
Casey Comets	8	4	2	2	12	8	14
Box Hill Inter	8	3	1	4	15	12	10
BASL	7	3	1	3	11	19	10
South Melbourne	8	2	3	3	12	11	9
Altona City	8	1	1	6	10	22	4
Preston Lions	8	0	1	7	4	27	1

For more WPL news visit Emma's blog <http://fromthebackline.blogspot.com>

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Stunning Suburbs Destroy Zebras

By Aritro Abedin

Round nine of the State League Division saw Preston rooted to the bottom table as Fawkner became the latest team to take the points at BT Connor Reserve, while Malvern City's run of excellent results came to an emphatic end against Langwarrin. However, the biggest shock of the round came on Sunday at Ralph Reserve as a half strength Western Suburbs annihilated title-challengers Whittlesea in a 5-1 thumping.

Malvern City 2 vs Lanwarrin 4

Heavy winds and torrential rain threatened to mar the contest at Kingston Heath on Saturday, but it appeared to have no impact on the players as Langwarrin won out in a six goal thriller. Former Portsmouth man Joe Harris set things off with possibly the goal of the season, beating five players in a mazy run that would have done Ryan Giggs proud before capping it off with an immaculate finish to make it 1-0.

It didn't take long before Langwarrin legend Caleb Nicholes doubled the advantage and the sides went into the break at 2-0. A more determined Malvern came out in the second half, with Alan Pratt pulling one back for the home side, but Matt Durand snuffed out any hope of a come back with his first for the match in the 60th minute before going onto set Caleb Nicholes up for his double to complete a comfortable 4-2 away win.

Langwarrin coach Gus Mcleod was thrilled with the vital away points, in a game which was set up by Joe Harris' sublime first half goal. 'He was at Portsmouth when he was a boy, as a 16 year old, and he's one of the few players in this division who can beat defenders from a standing start. He's got a really good touch and he just looks a really, really good player. It's just good to get the three points to be honest, any time you get three points in this division you've got to be very pleased.'

North Geelong Warriors 2 vs Clifton Hill 0

Clifton Hill's horror season slid further into disarray on Friday night as Vinko Buljubasic's Warriors ran out comfortable winners at Elcho Park. Clifton Hill looked lively early in the encounter and some good attacking play saw them craft a number of first half chances, but North Geelong took them to task for their poor finishing with a clinical display that ultimately revealed the gulf in class between the two sides. Clifton Hill were dealt an early blow as Rob Zadworny rifled in a shot from outside the 18 yard box to make it 1-0 in the 5th minute.

The game then livened up with both sides creating openings, and the 1-0 scoreline at the half time break would have left both sides disappointed. However, the Warriors eventually put the contest to bed as a trademark defensive lapse from Clifton Hill allowed them through in a three-on-one situation, with 18 year old Matthew Demo providing the finish. Vinko Buljubasic has had an up and down season with this Warriors side, but the win puts them within touching distance of the teams at the top.

'It was a good result, we're really pleased,' he said. 'It's always good to get a win at home. Now we've got our game in hand next Saturday and we just need to keep playing the way we are and hopefully challenge the top four.'

Western Suburbs 5 vs Whittlesea Zebras 1

The game of the round at Ralph Reserve promised plenty as two title chasing sides fought for the ascendancy, but no one could have predicted the one-sided affair that was to follow as Western Suburbs thoroughly dismantled Whittlesea in a breathtaking performance on Sunday. Suburbs' 17 year old sensation Nick Scerri was always likely to be the danger man in this match, and the Zebras had no answer to his scintillating display as he completed a stunning first half hatrick to give his side a 3-1 lead. Any comeback hopes the Zebras might have been entertaining were destroyed as they



Alan Pratt (Malvern) puts his head on the line as Karl Cochrane (Langwarrin) trid to kick the ball clear. Other Langwarrin players are Ben Caffrey (right) and Caleb Nicholes. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Caleb Nicholes (Langwarrin) takes on Malvern's Pat Liapis (left) and Nick Katsamboukas. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

let in an own goal early in the second half, before Vasilios Sianidis completed the rout ten minutes from the end with a neat finish to make it 5-1. The one-sided nature of the match represents an even greater surprise considering that Western Suburbs went into the match at half strength. 'I went in with 6 players of my best 14 players out,' said Suburbs coach Lorenz Kindtner after the match. 'I kid you not, I had four or five players who were under twenty one and I had a bunch of reserves players sitting on the bench.' His side's efforts to put a full team out won't be made any easier with the pending departure of hattrick hero Nick Scerri, to whom he paid tribute. 'We're going to lose him in three weeks. He's going on scholarship to Torquay United so we won't have him after that. He's going to be a very good player, he's an excellent goalscorer.'

In other results in the division, Fawkner got back to winning ways as goals from Ridvan Savlam and Rob Dolevski game them a 2-0 win over Preston that could very well have been far more emphatic. Meanwhile, the all-important Sprinvale White Eagles vs St.Albans Saints ended in a 3-1 win to the home side.



SL1 RESULTS

North Geelong Warriors 2
(M Demo R Zadworny)
FC Clifton Hill 0

Malvern City 2
(A Jerez A Pratt)
Langwarrin 4
(M Durand C Nicholes 2 J Harris)

Preston Lions 0
Fawkner Blues 2
(R Saglam R Dolevski)

Western Suburbs 5
(V Sianidis N Scerri 4)
Whittlesea Zebras 1

Springvale White Eagles 3
St Albans Saints 1

Under 21s:
North Geelong Warriors 6 **FC Clifton Hill 1**, **Malvern City 2** **Langwarrin 4**, **Western Suburbs** **Whittlesea Zebras** , **Preston Lions 5** **Fawkner Blues 0**

SL1 NEXT ROUND

Round 10
FC Clifton Hill v Preston Lions
Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Sat 19 Jun KO 3:00PM

Langwarrin v North Geelong Warriors
Lawton Park Reserve
Sat 19 Jun KO 3:00PM

Pascoe Vale v Malvern City
Hosken Reserve
Sat 19 Jun KO 3:00PM

Fawkner Blues v Western Suburbs
CB Smith Reserve
Sun 20 Jun KO 3:00PM

St Albans Saints v FC Bulleen Lions
Churchill Reserve
Sun 20 Jun KO 3:00PM

Springvale White Eagles v Whittlesea Zebras
White Eagles Stadium
Sun 21 Jun KO 8:30PM

SL1 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Springvale White Eagles	9	6	2	1	20	10	20
Langwarrin	9	5	1	3	21	17	16
Whittlesea Zebras	9	5	1	3	15	13	16
Western Suburbs	9	4	3	2	16	11	15
Fawkn er Blues	9	4	3	2	12	11	15
FC Bulleen Lions	8	4	2	2	17	6	14
North Geelong Warriors	8	3	4	1	12	6	13
Pascoe Vale	8	3	1	4	9	13	10
St Albans Saints	9	2	6	1	18	16	9
Malvern City	8	3	0	5	9	17	9
FC Clifton Hill	9	1	0	8	8	19	3
Preston Lions	9	0	1	8	4	22	1

SL1 U21 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Geelong Warriors	8	6	2	0	20	4	20
Langwarrin	9	6	1	2	17	10	19
FC Bulleen Lions	8	5	2	1	19	7	17
Springvale White Eagles	8	4	1	3	13	11	13
Western Suburbs	8	4	1	3	16	18	13
Whittlesea Zebras	8	3	3	2	12	10	12
St Albans Saints	8	4	1	3	17	12	10
Pascoe Vale	8	3	0	5	16	16	9
Malvern City	8	2	2	4	14	20	8
Preston Lions	9	2	1	6	16	19	7
Fawkn er Blues	9	1	2	6	4	20	5
FC Clifton Hill	9	1	2	6	8	25	5

Malvern keeper punches the ball past Caleb Nicholes (Langwarrin)
PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

All matches to be played on Saturday 19th June with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated.

State NW 2

Whittlesea Ranges v Werribee City
Epping Soccer Stadium Fri 18 Jun KO 8:30PM
Port Melbourne v Banyule City
SS Anderson Reserve Fri 18 Jun KO 8:30PM
Ballarat Red Devils v Geelong Rangers
Trekardo Park
Brunswick City v Altona City
Dunstan Reserve
Sydenham Park v Moreland City
Keilor Lodge Reserve
Williamstown v Altona East Phoenix
JT Gray Reserve

State SE 2

Doncaster Rovers v Casey Comets
Anderson Park Fri 18 Jun KO 8:30PM
Frankston Pines v Southern Stars
Monterey Reserve
Diamond Valley Utd v Berwick City
Partington Flats
Heatherton Utd v Morwell Pegasus
Bosnia & Herzegovina Centre
Knox City v Dandenong City
Egan Lee Reserve
Southern Suburbs v Eastern Lions
Keeley Park

State NW 3

Geelong v Hume Utd
Stead Park Reserve Fri 18 Jun KO 8:30PM
Cairnlea v Lalor
Cairnlea Park
Keilor Park v Westgate
Keilor Park Reserve
La Trobe University v Maribyrnong Greens
Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Field
Sunbury Utd v Essendon Utd
Langama Park
Yarraville Glory v Melbourne University Strangers
McIvor Reserve

State SE 3

Croydon City Arrows v Fitzroy City
Dorset Recreational Res Fri 18 Jun KO 8:30PM
Nunawading City FC v Mornington
Mahoneys Road Reserve
South Springvale v Noble Park Utd
Warner Reserve
Waverley Wanderers v Kingston City
Carlson Ave Reserve
Springvale City v Peninsula Strikers
Ross Reserve
Brandon Park v North Caulfield
Freeway Reserve Sun 20 Jun KO 3:00PM

Provi NW 1

FC Strathmore v Elwood City
Strathnaver Reserve
Laverton Park SC v Avondale Heights
Laverton Park Reserve
North Sunshine Eagles v Whittlesea Utd
Larissa Reserve
Northern Falcons v North City Lions
Hayes Park
South Yarra v Corio
Fawkner Park (North Pavilion)
Westvale v Melbourne City
McKechnie Reserve

Provi SE 1

Warragul Utd v Monash University
Baxter Park (Warragul)
Beaumaris v Boroondara Eagles
Beaumaris Reserve
Monbulk v Doveton
Monbulk Recreational Reserve
Mooroobark v Dandenong Sparrows
Esther Park Reserve
Sandringham City v Old Camberwell Grammar
RJ Sillitoe Reserve
Old Scotch v Old Melburnians
Scotch College

Provi NW 2

Bell Park v Collingwood City
Bell Park Sports Club
Epping City v Western Eagles
Duffy Street Reserve
Lalor Utd v Melton
HR Uren Reserve
Melbourne Tornado v West Preston
Newmarket Reserve
Moreland Utd v Hoppers Crossing
Moomba Park Reserve
Surf Coast v Plenty Valley Lions
Quay Reserve

Provi SE 2

Berwick Kings v Ashburton
Betula Park
Endeavour Utd v Caulfield Cobras
Reema Reserve
Whitehorse Utd v Old Brighton Grammarians
Terrara Park
Old Carey v Riversdale
Carey Sports Complex
Uni. Of Melbourne Blues SC v Lyndale Utd
Princes Park (Parkville)
Bayside Argonauts v Skye Utd
Shipston Reserve

Provi NW 3

Balmoral v Watsonia Heights
Arthur Beachley Reserve
Meadow Park Eagles v Brimbank Stallions
Gladstone Park Reserve
Youth Utd v Mill Park
Seth Raistrick Reserve
Bundoora Utd v Darebin Utd
Hills Recreational Reserve
Keilor Wolves v Brunswick Zebras
Green Gully Reserve
Upfield v Northern Roosters
Gibb Reserve

Provi SE 3

Keysborough v Eltham Redbacks
Coomoora Reserve
Noble Park v East Bentleigh
Norman Luth Reserve
Old Trinity Grammarians v Glen Waverley
FC Trinity Sports Ground
Seaford Utd v Rowville Eagles
North Seaford Reserve
White Star Dandenong v Essendon Royals
Greaves Reserve
Brighton v Manningham
Dendy Park

Seniors

STATE NORTH WEST 2

Reserves

Altona City 1 (J Hart) Ballarat Red Devils 0, Banyule City 1 (O Ayache) Sydenham Park 1 (J Cvetanovski), Geelong Rangers 0 Port Melbourne 1 (T Paton), Moreland City 0 Altona East Phoenix 2 (R Duckworth B Lojanica), Werribee City 2 (JC Spiteri 2) Brunswick City 4 (S Murat Azzam J Jackson 2), Williamstown 0 Whittlesea Ranges 2 (C Vouloumanos 2)

Altona City 2 Ballarat Red Devils 2, Banyule City 1 Sydenham Park 1, Geelong Rangers 0 Port Melbourne 1, Moreland City 2 Altona East Phoenix 1, Werribee City 0 Brunswick City 1, Williamstown 0 Whittlesea Ranges 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Port Melbourne	9	6	3	0	14	4	21
Whittlesea Ranges	9	6	2	1	18	10	20
Williamstown	9	5	2	2	10	7	17
Brunswick City	9	5	1	3	14	9	16
Werribee City	9	4	2	3	13	12	14
Altona East Phoenix	9	3	4	2	16	10	13
Altona City	9	3	3	3	12	13	12
Moreland City	9	3	1	5	15	16	10
Banyule City	9	1	4	4	11	14	7
Geelong Rangers	9	2	1	6	6	18	7
Sydenham Park	9	1	3	5	5	13	6
Ballarat Red Devils	9	1	2	6	8	16	5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Whittlesea Ranges	9	8	1	0	26	9	25
Moreland City	9	7	0	2	22	16	21
Ballarat Red Devils	9	6	1	2	20	15	19
Port Melbourne	9	5	2	2	13	10	17
Altona City	9	4	4	1	14	9	16
Brunswick City	9	4	2	3	17	15	14
Sydenham Park	9	3	2	4	15	17	11
Banyule City	9	2	3	4	10	9	9
Werribee City	9	3	0	6	16	16	9
Williamstown	9	1	2	6	6	15	5
Geelong Rangers	9	1	1	7	7	26	4
Altona East Phoenix	9	1	0	8	8	17	3

Seniors

Geelong 3 (T Hardy 2 J Agius) Melbourne University 1 (O Howard), Hume Utd 1 (E Ahmetovic) Sunbury Utd 4 (V Ilerardo P Shipp Z Romanovski), Keilor Park 3 (S Muschel 2 M Mazzarino) La Trobe University 2 (L Lavalie 2), Lalor 0 Westgate 3 (K Otuo-Acheampong 2 Own Goal), Maribyrnong Greens 1 (J Sehic) Yarraville Glory 3 (J Ikanovic 2 H Timotheou), Essendon Utd 1 Cairnlea 4 (F Tijani 2 E Koc A Alicevic)

STATE NORTH WEST 3

Sunbury Utd

Cairnlea

La Trobe University

Keilor Park

Essendon Utd

Lalor

Hume Utd

Melbourne University

Yarraville Glory

Geelong

Maribyrnong Greens

Melbourne University

Essendon Utd

Reserves

Geelong 1 (M Temelkovski) Melbourne University 1, Hume Utd 0 Sunbury Utd 1, Keilor Park 1 La Trobe University 2, Lalor 4 Westgate 1, Maribyrnong Greens 2 Yarraville Glory 5, Essendon Utd 1 Cairnlea 1

9 8 1 0 25 10 25

9 5 3 1 28 18 18

9 4 3 2 26 18 15

9 5 0 4 25 18 15

9 3 3 3 21 21 12

9 3 3 3 20 26 12

9 3 1 5 31 29 10

9 3 1 5 18 16 10

9 3 1 5 19 23 10

9 2 4 3 14 25 10

9 2 4 3 19 26 7

9 1 0 8 14 30 3

Seniors	PROVI 1 NORTH WEST							Reserves							
Avondale Heights 0 North City Lions 1 (H Ntakirutimana), Corio 6 (G Grigg 2 M Marinovic SJ Luczo A Palmieri) FC Strathmore 1 (A Kranjinovic), Elwood City 2 (Own Goal 2) Laverton Park 2 (M Gonzalez R Castro), Melbourne City 0 South Yarra 0, Northern Falcons 2 North Sunshine Eagles 1 (R Lagator), Whittlesea Utd 0 Westvale 0								Avondale Heights 4 North City Lions 1, Corio 3 FC Strathmore 0, Elwood City 0 Laverton Park 1, Melbourne City 1 South Yarra 3, Northern Falcons 1 North Sunshine Eagles 7, Whittlesea Utd 6 Westvale 0							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Avondale Heights	9	7	1	1	18	5	22	South Yarra	9	7	0	2	20	12	21
Corio	9	7	0	2	22	9	21	Avondale Heights	9	6	1	2	30	8	19
Laverton Park	9	5	2	2	19	12	17	Corio	9	5	2	2	21	9	17
Whittlesea Utd	9	5	2	2	18	13	17	Whittlesea Utd	9	5	2	2	17	5	17
North Sunshine Eagles	9	4	1	4	12	10	13	FC Strathmore	9	5	2	2	14	14	17
FC Strathmore	9	4	1	4	17	19	13	Laverton Park	9	5	1	3	10	6	16
Westvale	9	3	1	5	8	9	10	North City Lions	9	4	1	4	12	13	13
Northern Falcons	9	3	3	3	7	10	9	North Sunshine Eagles	9	3	2	4	17	13	11
Melbourne City	9	2	2	5	9	16	8	Westvale	9	3	1	5	13	21	10
South Yarra	9	1	5	3	3	10	8	Elwood City	9	2	2	5	12	18	8
Elwood City	9	0	5	4	7	16	5	Melbourne City	9	1	0	8	10	38	3
North City Lions	9	1	1	7	4	15	4	Northern Falcons	9	0	2	7	10	29	-1

Seniors	PROVI 2 NORTH WEST							Reserves							
Collingwood City 3 (D Tamiyu D Wood B Nuka) Surf Coast 2 (MJ Roberts 2), Melton 0 Bell Park 2 (LH Nelson RJ Antoinie), Moreland Utd 0 Lalor Utd 1, Plenty Valley Lions 0 Epping City 0, West Preston 4 (C Kaloudis M Bonafede L Papageorgiou D Palmisano) Hoppers Crossing 3 (CJ Harding K Sherzai Own Goal), Western Eagles 2 (R Chelchowski O Sacco) Melbourne Tornado 2 (L Stolica)								Collingwood City 2 Surf Coast 1, Melton 2 Bell Park 2, Moreland Utd 6 Lalor Utd 2, Plenty Valley Lions 0 Epping City 4, West Preston 2 Hoppers Crossing 2 Western Eagles 1 Melbourne Tornado 3							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Surf Coast	9	7	0	2	20	8	21	Hoppers Crossing	9	6	2	1	23	11	20
Western Eagles	9	6	2	1	21	9	17	West Preston	9	6	2	1	21	11	20
Epping City	9	4	3	2	17	13	15	Collingwood City	9	5	3	1	25	14	18
Plenty Valley Lions	9	4	3	2	13	10	15	Moreland Utd	9	6	1	2	23	13	16
West Preston	9	5	0	4	19	17	15	Epping City	9	4	1	4	25	18	13
Moreland Utd	9	5	1	3	13	8	13	Plenty Valley Lions	9	3	3	3	13	18	12
Bell Park	9	3	1	5	18	16	10	Lalor Utd	9	4	0	5	12	19	12
Hoppers Crossing	9	3	1	5	17	21	10	Melton	9	2	4	3	13	17	10
Melton	9	2	3	4	12	18	9	Surf Coast	9	3	0	6	14	15	9
Lalor Utd	9	2	2	5	13	23	8	Bell Park	9	2	2	5	12	19	8
Melbourne Tornado	9	1	4	4	14	18	7	Melbourne Tornado	9	2	2	5	17	26	8
Collingwood City	9	1	2	6	10	26	5	Western Eagles	9	0	2	7	6	23	2

Seniors	PROVI 3 NORTH WEST							Reserves							
Brimbank Stallions 2 (S Tapia R Magro) Darebin Utd 3 (E Papageorgiou J Nikolarakos T Jones-Roberts), Mill Park 1 (P Petrakos) Keilor Wolves 1 (R Trifunovski), Watsonia Heights 0 Meadow Park Eagles 1 (B Staines), Brunswick Zebras 3 Upfield 0, Bundoora Utd 2 (S Kocdeviren D Ravenhill) Youth Utd 0, Northern Roosters 3 (a uguz F Eren 2) Balmoral 1 (A Bon)								Brimbank Stallions 3 Darebin Utd 1, Mill Park 6 Keilor Wolves 4, Watsonia Heights 2 Meadow Park Eagles 1, Brunswick Zebras 2 Upfield 2, Bundoora Utd 5 Youth Utd 3, Northern Roosters 0 Balmoral 6							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Darebin Utd	9	7	1	1	23	10	22	Watsonia Heights	9	7	0	2	32	9	21
Upfield	9	7	1	1	18	8	22	Brimbank Stallions	9	6	2	1	29	18	20
Northern Roosters	9	7	1	1	21	12	22	Balmoral	9	6	0	3	17	17	18
Balmoral	9	4	2	3	21	13	14	Upfield	9	5	2	2	43	14	17
Watsonia Heights	9	3	3	3	11	8	12	Youth Utd	9	5	1	3	27	17	16
Meadow Park Eagles	9	3	2	4	12	11	11	Darebin Utd	9	5	1	3	17	12	16
Mill Park	9	3	1	5	9	19	10	Keilor Wolves	9	4	0	5	25	34	12
Brimbank Stallions	9	2	3	4	21	21	9	Brunswick Zebras	9	2	4	3	15	16	10
Youth Utd	9	2	2	5	8	11	8	Bundoora Utd	9	2	3	4	15	23	9
Brunswick Zebras	9	2	2	5	8	15	8	Meadow Park Eagles	9	1	2	6	12	23	5
Bundoora Utd	9	2	1	6	13	22	7	Northern Roosters	9	0	4	5	15	29	4
Keilor Wolves	9	1	3	5	9	24	6	Mill Park	9	1	1	7	12	47	4

Seniors	STATE SOUTH EAST 2										Reserves										
Casey Comets 1 (J Mcevoy) Morwell Pegasus 2 (F Albanese), Eastern Lions 1 (O Harel) Knox City 3 (N Gianopoulos M Evans T Ajao), Berwick City 1 (J Fernand) Doncaster Rovers 3 (V Pirozzi J Adeosun 2), Dandenong City 6 (D Matkovic 2 T Grskovic I Klarica A Milicic) Frankston Pines 3 (M Morris-Thomas 2), Southern Stars 3 (AM Rudzki B Sakaci AF Mulcahy) Diamond Valley Utd 2 (A Savage Own Goal), Heatherton Utd 3 (M Skenderovic A Sanad) Southern Suburbs 1 (C Mellios)											Casey Comets 2 Morwell Pegasus 2, Eastern Lions 1 Knox City 2, Berwick City 0 Doncaster Rovers 6, Dandenong City 3 Frankston Pines 0, Southern Stars 2, Diamond Valley Utd 5, Heatherton Utd 1 Southern Suburbs 3										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT						
Southern Stars	9	8	1	0	23	10	25	Knox City	9	8	0	1	30	10	24						
Morwell Pegasus	9	7	0	2	24	13	21	Diamond Valley Utd	9	6	1	2	27	13	19						
Diamond Valley Utd	9	6	1	2	21	16	19	Southern Stars	9	6	0	3	30	16	18						
Knox City	9	4	3	2	15	12	15	Dandenong City	9	5	0	4	17	17	15						
Dandenong City	9	4	2	3	17	12	14	Berwick City	8	5	0	3	14	18	15						
Casey Comets	9	4	2	3	15	14	14	Casey Comets	9	4	2	3	14	11	14						
Heatherton Utd	9	3	4	2	11	9	13	Eastern Lions	9	4	1	4	15	14	13						
Doncaster Rovers	9	3	1	5	12	15	10	Heatherton Utd	9	3	1	5	10	15	10						
Eastern Lions	9	2	2	5	14	18	8	Southern Suburbs	8	2	1	5	12	21	7						
Frankston Pines	9	2	1	6	10	19	7	Frankston Pines	9	2	1	6	11	20	7						
Berwick City	8	0	2	6	5	16	2	Morwell Pegasus	9	2	1	6	20	40	7						
Southern Suburbs	8	0	1	7	9	22	1	Doncaster Rovers	9	2	0	7	16	21	6						

Seniors	STATE SOUTH EAST 3							Reserves							
Fitzroy City 1 (D Wilson) Nunawading City FC 1 (J Cirianni), Peninsula Strikers 2 (G Lawrence 2) Brandon Park 1, South Springvale 2 (S Catherine GW Pearce) Croydon City Arrows 2 (M Zoppo R Benedos), Mornington 3 (N Waite AJ Skledar 2) Springvale City 1 (E Klancevic), North Caulfield 2 (J Tasker) Waverley Wanderers 0	Fitzroy City 3 Nunawading City FC 0, Peninsula Strikers 5 Brandon Park 0, South Springvale 3 Croydon City Arrows 3, Mornington 7 Springvale City 1, North Caulfield 3 Waverley Wanderers 1														
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
South Springvale	9	7	1	1	26	7	22	Fitzroy City	9	5	3	1	25	11	18
Noble Park Utd	9	7	1	1	23	9	22	Noble Park Utd	9	5	3	1	29	22	18
Mornington	9	6	0	3	22	12	18	Nunawading City FC	9	5	2	2	24	19	17
Kingston City	9	5	1	3	15	13	16	Peninsula Strikers	9	4	4	1	23	12	16
Peninsula Strikers	9	5	1	3	11	12	16	South Springvale	9	4	4	1	19	10	16
Croydon City Arrows	9	3	2	4	14	14	11	Croydon City Arrows	9	3	5	1	21	15	14
Fitzroy City	9	3	2	4	17	20	11	Kingston City	9	3	4	2	28	18	13
Nunawading City FC	9	3	1	5	6	14	10	Mornington	9	3	4	2	24	18	13
North Caulfield	9	3	0	6	18	24	9	North Caulfield	9	2	1	6	19	26	7
Waverley Wanderers	9	2	3	4	6	12	9	Springvale City	9	2	1	6	14	34	7
Brandon Park	9	1	2	6	13	21	5	Brandon Park	9	1	2	6	10	29	5
Springvale City	9	1	2	6	11	24	5	Waverley Wanderers	9	0	1	8	9	31	4





V-LEAGUE

THE VICTORIAN HOME OF FUTSAL
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Round 6

PREMIERSHIP



Ladder starts to take shape?

By Adam Hussein

Fitzroy 4-4 FC Essendon
Round 6 got off to a flyer with the Fitzroy Gold Lions 5 wins from 5 being tamed by the Essendon Reds. Fitzroy began proceedings just as they had the previous five rounds with a static and timid start. Essendon prodded and probed with no real purpose or threat until capitalizing on two Fitzroy errors to lead 2-0. Fitzroy superstar Leigh Minopolous & ex-Balwyn teammate Anthony Hammer came off the bench and sparked a late first half come back. Two goals a piece at the interval both sides came out to seal all three points. It was a goal for goal shootout; Minopolous hit a hat-trick to give Fitzroy the lead, Essendon immediately equalized and there was a sense of déjà vu as Fitzroy again took the lead before being pegged back again by the wily Essendon outfit. Minopolous hit the post from a close range penalty to win it for Fitzroy and in the dying seconds Essendon hit a side ball goal wards that dusted Spiro Kargas's (FFC GK) fingertips in the Fitzroy goal but wasn't awarded as the referees weren't 100% sure. 4-4 at full time a fair result for both sides, Fitzroy remains unbeaten and Essendon seal a nifty point.

North Melbourne 10-7 Albert Park
After the breathtaking opener North Melbourne FC talisman Fernando De Moraes got the ball rolling and gave Albert Park the blues as he hit a scintillating six goals. Fernando was back and better then ever re-juvenating the North Melbourne side that drew with newcomers Mickleham just a week earlier. North toyed with Albert Park and there was nothing goalkeeper Brendan Chen could do on numerous occasions. In the absence of brother Jonathan, Jason Barrientos turned on the style, at times gliding over the court and a real advertisement for the brand of Futsal North Melbourne play. With clever checks, heels & off the ball movement Jason caused more havoc and left Albert Park soldiers' Leo Papagerogiou & Rob Melvin stranded. Albert Park scored a few consolations through V-League stalwart John Verikakis but the result was never in doubt. North Melbourne mean business and are favourites for the title, Albert Park will do well to survive relegation for a third consecutive season.

Metropolitan 4-4 Brimbank
The third game of the evening was another cracker as outdoor football teammates clashed in this round 6 fixture. The little emperor Alija Redzepovic was left scratching his head as a resilient Brimbank held on for a 4-4 draw. The game began at a cracking pace with both sides peppering each others goals. Metropolitan keeper Jason Ng has struggled in recent weeks and must've been fuming after conceding at the near post. Carlos Monuz on the other hand had an absolute blinder saving Brim-



Fitzroy's Gold Lions hunt down the Reds of Essendon



Mogoai, Avaram Prahran and Simsek of Pascoe Vale V-LEAGUE superstars

banks bacon on numerous occasions. Ivan Zilic (MFC) was dangerous throughout and scored a double on the night, with Alija and Husmir scoring singles. Brimbank maestro Vadim Mazursky was elegant at times and also scored a double. Brimbank were 3-2 down at half time and came out firing in the second half. When they ran out of huff and puff Metro pushed on looking to kill the game off. Brimbank stood firm and can be proud of their point with Kalkan, Karic & Kablar all playing well. Metropolitan will be left rueing dropped points as the ladder starts to take shape.

FC Prahran 4-2 Pascoe Vale
The second half of the card had another three mouth-watering clashes, none bigger than Prahran's 4-2 upset over Pascoe Vale. The giant killers were back in town, minus Haider Noor, but played a brave counter-attacking style to put the champions to the sword. It was slightly more comfortable



Victorian Futsal Stadium
407 Victoria Street Brunswick

then the close scoreline suggests with Pascoe Vale rarely looking the side that won the double. Its bad news week every week for Pascoe Vale at the moment and it started with superstar Simon Lammanda's absence from the line up back in round 2, since then new inclusions Arregin, Spjodic & Souza are still finding their feet. Greg Laskaris (GK) has been suspended until round 11 (and fill in keeper Claudio Palmeri still did well as his replacement) for an indiscretion & Tomislav Grgic has headed overseas. It looked like the Pascoe Vale boys were on the plane too as Prahran's Avram & Mukhtar sent them packing with clever interplay. Barbosa (PVFC) could very well be the best technically gifted Futsal player in Australia with sublime touch and dribbling ability but he was largely ineffective, and his efforts fruitless other then to draw fouls in and around the 'D'. Prahran stood firm and played very well, Dima Shakhanov saved the day again with no less than six world class saves. The champions are

in disarray and need to regroup as Fitzroy await next weeks clash.

Hume FC 7-1 FC Carlton
State League Champions Hume destroyed Carlton in this brutal beating that was not only a crushing result but a cruel blow to a Carlton side trying to turn things around after last weeks first win of the season. Parlak & Culculoglu were firing on all cylinders for Hume with four goals between them. Hume looked menacing in their black LEGEA kits as opposed to the whimpering Carlton in the white. Dixon played his first game for Hume after being released by Fitzroy and started brightly. He nabbed a nice goal late in the second half in a move that could prove fruitful for both player and club. Iman Arjoman tried and tried again for Carlton but it was too little avail, Carlton front man Savva Pattikis hit the post & missed narrowly more times then I could count and it only compounded his frustration. Brazilian wonderboy Joao Da Silva looked hampered by a groin injury sustained while training & Serar Isa ran the hard yards for little reward. Hume is adapting to the big league and could prove a real thorn for sides in the top half of the table as they try to survive in the V-League. FC Carlton will do well to avoid last place and immediate relegation.

Mickleham 3 vs. 6 Ashburton FC
The final game had all the drama of the previous five clashes and more as Ashburton minus Coach Paul Vidic and a whole host of players punished a wasteful Mickleham. This game was all about a young boy by the name of Dimitri Vithoulkas, donning the green of Ashburton and single handily taking the game to Mickleham. Any team Dimi's involved in becomes a one-man team as he is simply the go to man, he has the knack of beating multiple opponents and has a devastating snap shot from wide. He scored 5 in the 6-3 rout, brother Chris scoring the other goal. Lucaino Bessa was immense at the back for the green machine and was integral in maintaining cool heads. Mickleham stars Ryan Filipovic & Damir Marusic are putting in sensational shifts every week but aren't being supported well by the crew around them. Anthony Colosimo was missing for Mickleham but brother Jacob did play. Nana Addo was largely ineffective for Mickleham, and his frustrations boiled over with an off the ball incident with Dimitri Vithoulkas. Mickleham have played really well in spells and can play at an incredible tempo and intensity due to the calibre of players in the team. They need to be more effective on the scoreboard and witty defensively. Ashburton will struggle without Vithoulkas next week.

PHOTOS BY
Franco Lucchetti, Nick Chipas, Theo Mechanikos

LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Fitzroy FC	6	5	1	0	30	17	13	16
2 Nth Melbourne FC	6	4	1	1	39	22	17	13
3 Metropolitan FC	6	3	2	1	48	33	15	11
4 Pascoe Vale FC	6	3	1	2	31	22	9	10
5 FC Prahran	6	3	1	2	33	28	5	10
6 Hume FC	6	3	0	3	26	24	2	9
7 FC Essendon	6	2	3	12	5	23	2	9
8 Ashburton FC	6	3	0	3	29	28	1	9
9 Brimbank FC	6	1	2	3	25	30	-5	5
10 Mickleham FC	6	1	1	4	25	38	-13	4
11 Albert Park FC	6	1	0	5	25	35	-10	3
12 FC Carlton	6	1	0	5	19	55	-36	3

Round 6 Results June 2

- 6:30 Fitzroy FC v FC Essendon 4 - 4
- 7:15 Nth Melb FC v Albert Park FC 10 - 7
- 8:00 Metropolitan FC v Brimbank FC 4 - 4
- 8:45 FC Prahran v Pascoe Vale FC 4 - 2
- 9:30 Hume FC v FC Carlton 7 - 1
- 10:15 Mickleham FC v Ashburton FC 6 - 3

Round 7 Clashes June 9

- 6:30 Albert Park FC v Ashburton FC
- 7:15 Fitzroy FC v Pascoe Vale FC
- 8:00 Mickleham FC v FC Carlton
- 8:45 Nth Melbourne FC v Brimbank FC
- 9:30 Metropolitan FC v FC Essendon
- 10:15 Hume FC v FC Prahran

Top Scorers

1. A.Redzepovic MFC 14 goals
2. L.Minopoulos FFC 13 goals
3. V.Mazurskiy BFC 12 goals
4. A.Stevanovic FCE 11 goals
5. D.Vithoulkas AFC 11 goals



Ashburton's Dinomo Dimi Vithoulkas takes off



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Thunder's Sweet Victory

By George Stogiannou

Dandenong Thunder snared its second prized scalp in two weeks defeating second placed Richmond Eagles 1-0 at Kevin Bartlett reserve on Friday night.

Both sides had much to play for in a highly anticipated match up which maintained the trend of away wins in Premier league matches between the two sides over the last two seasons. For the Eagles, a win would see it grab top spot ahead of leader Oakleigh Cannons with the same number of games played. For the Thunder, another win over a highly rated opponent following last week's upset win over Hume, would give the team renewed confidence and self belief.

A very tight first half produced few chances to either side. Daniel Visevic went closest to scoring for the Eagles when he curled a free kick inches over the bar. But in general, the home team struggled to find space in its attacking third against Thunder which defended in numbers. The visitors too created little up front in the first half, where debutante Welsh striker Jamie Reed was isolated with little support.

An injury to Richmond defender Erhan Karahan forced a reshuffle to the home team's defence after the break, and some confusion in the centre of defence allowed Reed a clear chance to score immediately after the restart. His instinctive shot flew wide of the far post. A second Thunder new boy, right midfielder Geoffrey Kellaway then found space in behind the Eagles shaky defence but blasted a good chance over the bar, bringing the travelling band of Thunder supporters to life.

At the other end Visevic and Jessie Krncevic fired a warning shots at Stuart Webster's goal, but Thunder continued to push forward and won a corner. From the ensuing goalmouth scramble, Thunder midfielder Luke Sherbon scored from close range. The goal spurred the

visitors on and a Kellaway cross from the right flank skimmed the cross bar. The visitors thought they had a certain penalty when a Reed run into the box ended when he fell under a Richmond tackle. The Thunder bench raised their arms shaking their heads in disbelief when the referee ignored the penalty appeals. As the half wore on, the home team relied increasingly on hopeful long balls into the box which the Thunder defence managed to defend. However a turnover of possession in Thunder's defensive third allowed Krncevic one last chance for a late Richmond equalizer, but he was unable to keep his close range shot down as it looped over the bar.

Richmond coach Michael Chatzitritifonos said after the game, " Our most disappointing result of the year I'd say. We've been on a good run and it was going to happen. It's disappointing it's happened at home. We just didn't play well. We couldn't string three or four passes together, penetrate them out wide. In the second half, there was no patience in our build-up. We were forcing it long early and playing into their hands. Credit to Dandenong. They came here with a game plan and it's worked for them."

Thunder coach Stuart Munro commented after the match, " It was very tight. Richmond are a good side, a very mobile, young side with lots of energy. It's pleasing we're starting to show a little bit of resilience we never showed at the beginning of the season. Obviously the new players are helping but I think the other players are responding as well. That's two clean sheets. They're working hard and the self belief is starting to come back."

Next weekend Thunder take a break before taking on Oakleigh Cannons at home, the following Saturday in their second lockout match.

Richmond Eagles visit Northcote City in a catch up round match next weekend.



Thunder's new signing Luke Sherbon (above) shows he's got a knack of finding the back of the net, much to the delight of his new set of fans (inset). PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



Goalmouth action from Friday night's big VPL clash between Richmond Eagles and Dandenong Thunder. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

ALTONA MAGIC



6

BENTLEIGH GREENS



2

Match Details:

Magic:

T.Tomic (A.Svetkopoulos '32'), D.Mladenovic, K.Delev, K.Delev, P.Siveski, M.Theodore, G.Papadopoulos (Z.Tasevski '62), P. Cergovski, J.Thornley (D.Radojicic '80), S.Bozinovski, S.Kovacevic.

Goals: Koce Delev '34, P.Siveski '16, '38 (pen), Papadopoulos '45, Radojicic '90, Tasevski '93.

Yellow cards: Theodore '51, Bozinovski '60.
Red cards: None

Greens:

D.Salcin, G.Stavridis, C.Smart, S.de Vito, C.Anthopoulos, A.Rojas, A.Fedljevic, T.Ouliaris, J.Webster, J.Sapazovski, D.Piemonte.

Goals: Sapazovski '49 (pen), 55.

Yellow cards: Stavridis '15, Salcin '38.

Red cards: Stavridis '30.

Champs devastate Greens

By Abraam Gregoriou

If Altona's demolition of Sunshine Georgies last week was not enough to convince the rest of the Premier League that the defending premiers were back to their best then another clinical display against fourth placed Bentleigh should do the trick. Altona took out the match 6-2 at home in front of a crowd of 300 people in cold and wet conditions.

From the start of the match the Greens appeared asleep in defence, shadows of the team that almost defeated Oakleigh in their last match. Their lack of hunger and discipline was clearly evident in the early stages when Greens defender George Stavrides was red carded in the 15th minute leaving his team to carry the burden with only 10 men.

Altona on the other hand had come to play and opened the scoring in the 18th minute when captain Pece Siveski delivered a corner that bypassed a crowded box giving his team a one goal lead. After that the Greens began leaking goals with last week's four goal star Koce Delvev making the score 2-0 in the 35th minute. To make matters worse new Greens goalkeeper gave away a penalty

and received a yellow card for his troubles in the 38th minute, which Magic captain Pece Siveski happily put the ball in the back of the net extending the margin to 3-0.

Altona were not done yet and in the 45th minute seconds before half time scored again when a pass by Mathew Theodore allowed George Papadopoulos to make the score 4-0 and rub salt in the wounds of the hapless Greens.

The Greens were clearly backed into a corner with no place to go. Down 4-0 at half time their choice was either consolidate and succumb to the onslaught or fight back and show some heart. Much to the delight of their supporters the Greens chose the latter. Two goals within the first 10 minutes from Greens striker John Sapazovski gave his team some hope of a miraculous comeback.

With a glimmer of hope the Greens went for broke and could have levelled the score. Shots wide and a few shots that hit the wood work denied the Greens any chance of a late comeback. Altona on the other hand remained steady and with the Greens forced to open up Altona capitalised with two more goals both coming in extra time when late substitute Dejan Radojicic scored within seconds of coming on and almost instantaneously another goal by Talevski



Magic 'keeper Tomi Tomic makes a clean grab in a crowded penalty box. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

made it 6 goals for Altona, capping off an emphatic win.

The win gives Altona a real chance of avoiding relegation and sends a clear message to the rest of the competition that the defending champions are here to play. The lose means the Greens fall into the bottom half of the table with their only saving grace being the luxury

of having two games in hand.

Next week Altona like most of the competition has the week off, while the Greens play host to South Melbourne on Friday night (kick off at 8:30pm) in the first of their two catch up matches.



The ball skips past everyone and hits the onion bag as Altona Magic sent a clear warning to the rest of the field that their season is far from over. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

South crash back to earth

By John Kyrou

Northcote City sent South Melbourne FC crashing back to reality by beating the RHB Singapore Cup Quarter Finalists 3-2 at John Cain Memorial Park on Sunday afternoon. The result has sent Northcote into the top five and keeps South near the bottom of the table, however the Blues still have two games in hand due to participating in the RHB Singapore Cup last week.

South dictated the game early and opened the scoring through Fernando De Moraes in the 24th minute. The Futsal-roo was put through on goal and he cleverly rounded Northcote goalkeeper Chris Petropoulos before slotting the ball into the back of the net. The goal re-iterated Fernando's value to the team, as despite missing the trip to Singapore he was still able to slot back into the senior side and score to extend his lead in the club's golden boot tally.

Northcote had been dangerous on the counter-attack and had given the South defence plenty of headaches throughout the first half. Their persistence finally paid off ten minutes before halftime when captain Trent Rixon made the South defence pay for failing to clear the ball properly. Rixon blasted in the equalising goal despite goalkeeper Peter Zois' best efforts to keep the ball out.

The game broke open in the second half, with two goals in a frantic two minutes early on setting the scene for a big finish. Ten minutes into the half, South captain Rama Tavsancioglu conceded a free kick on the edge of the area and Mark McGough sent the Northcote supporters wild with a stunning free kick that soared into the top corner of the net.

From the kick-off, South promptly went down the field and leveled when Kyle Joryeff, in his League debut for the club, out-jumped his marker at the back post and headed the ball past Petropoulos to open his scoring account for his new club.

Both teams were now going for the three points, with South enjoying plenty of possession and with Northcote playing a very smart counter-attacking game. With twenty minutes to go, the game was set up for someone to be a hero for their club and that person was Bradley Norton, who received the ball on the left side and fired the ball home to put Northcote in prime position to win the three points. The goal shattered the South players, who until that stage had been looking good to score a third themselves.

There was still time though for South to salvage a draw, and before Norton's goal coach Vaughan Coveny had already thrown Joe Keenan and Hamid Basma on to try and score. Coveny then introduced Gianni De Nittis to the game, and he combined with the other substitutes to create plenty of chances but for no reward. De Nittis had the best of the chances when he got on the receiving end of a cross but he could only direct his header straight at Petropoulos and the Northcote custodian did an excellent job in keeping the ball out.

South plays the first of its two catch-up matches on Friday night at 8:30pm when the side travels to Kingston Heath Soccer Complex to meet the Bentleigh Greens. Northcote play the NTC on Wednesday night before enjoying having next weekend off. Northcote's next VPL match is against Altona Magic on June 19 at John Cain Memorial Park with kick-off scheduled for 3pm.



James Stefanou (Sth Melb) wins the ball under strong opposition from his Northcote opponent. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSON



Mark McGough scores Northcote's second and nearly breaks the South Melbourne net. PHOTO: PETER PSARROS



Brad Norton reels away after scoring the winner and clinching all three points, much to the delight of the home support. PHOTO: PETER PSARROS



Mark McGough is congratulated by Jonathan Voulgaris on scoring Northcote's second goal. Captain Trent Rixon looks thoughtful while Wddiw Soares is clearly pleased PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



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HUME CITY

0



HEIDELBERG UNITED

0

Match Details:

Apologies but the details were not available the time of going to press.

Ed.

Points shared at The Valley

By Dom Burton

Hume City has continued its patchy form unable to break Heidelberg United at Valley Park with both teams failing to trouble the scoreboard.

After an arm wrestle in the first half between the midfields, Hume City lost young striker Turhan Sumbul to a red card after a clumsy foul early in the second stanza leaving Hume City on the back foot for the remainder of the match.

With desperate efforts to keep a clean sheet, the return of Steven Pace and Phil Ricobenne proved to be crucial. Hume City seemed to have a lot more poise in defence, but lacked penetration through the mid-field, resulting in a lack of supply of quality balls to the forwards.

Zoran Petrevski started the match with a surprise ball to his feet at the 1st minute which he sent over the cross bar much to the amazement of everyone at the game.

Opazo and Cardozo teamed well at the 10th minute only to have the attack prevented by a desperate Heidelberg United defence.

Cardozo came close at the 22nd minute sending the ball just wide of goals.

Steven Pace came to the rescue at the 30th minute when he made a last ditched effort to prevent a clear shot on goal by Heidelberg United. With the match in the balance, Turhan Sumbul took on the Heidelberg defence and whipped a brilliant ball to the head of Zoran Petrevski who was unable to capitalise on the chance at the 39th minute.

The match produced very few chances from both sides, probably the best chance fell to

Heidelberg's George Slefandorf in the 29th minute when he found himself one on one but decided to take a shot from outside the 18 yard box, which was easily covered by Hume 'keeper Louie Acevski.

Sash Aleksovski grazed the woodwork for Heidelberg moments later, but both teams went in to the break with clean sheets and nothing else to show for their endeavours.

The second half began with Hume City pushing for the 3 points. Richard Carodzo once again came close with some magical footwork only for the defence intercepting a certain goal opportunity.

Turhan Sumbul created headaches for the coaching staff at the 62nd minute after receiving a red card for careless play on his opponent.

With the extra man, Heidelberg tried to take the ascendancy and made a couple of substitutions. Bergers coach brought on Nick Marinos, who had recently returned after a stint in Greece, and Yianni Galanos. The moves seem to nearly pay dividends for the Bergers as the penetrated the Hume goal. Marinos had two golden opportunities, as did Galanos, but both substitutes failed to take advantage of the openings.

The last 25 minutes saw Heidelberg push for an unexpected victory, but was unable to beat the defensive pressure applied by Hume City.

Speaking to Goal! Weekly after the match, Heidelberg coach said, "I'm just rapt that for the last 5 weeks we've picked up 11 out of 15 points, which suggests to me that we are back on track. But in saying that, it's so tight this year, I mean we haven't lost in 5 weeks and we're still trying to get off the bottom. "



Hume's Turhan Sumbul pleads his innocence but the referee would have none of it. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

He went on to add, "It's a very even competition and it will go down to the wire. In terms of the game itself, not many teams have gone to Hume and come away with a result. So in essence, you might just want to take that and move on."

Asked if he felt any pressure in recent weeks regarding his coaching position at Olympic Village, Katsakis said, "No, not at all. I think everyone at the club understands

that we are a squad that has just come together and it's not something that will happen overnight. Our aim is to survive the year and maintain a good mid-table position, and then try to build on it next year. But no, no pressure what so ever."

"To say the least, we may be one of the bottom teams, but we've only lost four games. There are teams in the top half of the league that have lost 6 games or more.



Hume keeper Louie Acevski takes full command in his penalty area. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

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SUNSHINE GEORGIES

1



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

2



Match Details:

**SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 1
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2**
Goal scorers: SGC Shaun Romein 3min. M.K. Jean Dubois 41 min. Kevin Townson 45 min.

Starting List - Sunshine George Cross: Martin JOHN, Shaun ROMEIN, Andrew NABOUT, Craig SWEENEY, Christos KONSTAS, Marco ROSANO (Luke GROUNDS 45), Douglas CAMERON, 25. Andrew BOURAKIS, Ben COGGER, Taxiarchis APOSTOLIKAS (Ahmet TURER 76), Barry DEVLIN. Subs: Daniel SWEENEY, Julian BUZZANCA, Cameron SALIK.

Starting List - Melbourne Knights: Ryan FILIPOVIC, Ben SUREY, Anthony BRAN, Josip MAGDIC (Gazmend AJDINI 74), Kevin TOWNSON, Adrian ZAHRA, Thomas SKARA, Jean DUBOIS, Anthony COLOSIMO (Liam CANNELL 90), Daniel TIATTO, Sebastian MATTEI. Subs: Antony LONCARIC, Ivica PRAIZ, Damien GLEIZE.

Georgies' sorrow continues

By Gordon Bennet

Melbourne Knights recorded a much needed 2-1 win over Knights Stadium co-tenant Sunshine George Cross in a fiery encounter on Sunday night. Up to 8 cautions and 1 red card were issued in this must win battle to secure all 3 points.

The Georgies were off to a flier taking the lead after only 2 minutes, when Andrew Nabbout swung over a cross from the right that had Taxiarchis Apostolikas stretching to get his foot to the ball. His managed to deflect the ball goal wards that produced a good save from Knight's keeper Seb Mattei. The Knight's keeper could only parry the ball into the path of Shaun Romein, who tapped the ball into the net. The Knights re-acted to this set back by pinning the Georgies in their own half with slick passing.

Sunshine George Cross looked at ease coping with the Knights attacks, with most of the Knight's efforts fizzing out. Knight's danger man were Danny Tiatto and Kevin Townson but their finishing was poor. After 38 minutes Martin John was called into action making a good save from Anthony Bran. At the other end Shaun Romein produced a shot that went close to increasing Sunshine's lead. Melbourne Knights fans were in raptures when they levelled the score 4 minutes before the break.

Danny Tiatto looked to have fouled Shaun Romein from behind, but after second thoughts, the referee waved play, on allowing Jean Debois a shot from just outside the penalty area. The ball deceived Martin John as it glanced off the upright into the net.

The Knights were not content with a 1-1 half-time score line and took the lead on the stroke of half time. A swinging centre from Jean Debois on

the left wing was flicked onto the far post, where Kevin Townson's header struck the underside of the cross-bar and bounced down. The referee's assistant awarded the goal to give the Knights the lead. Sunshine introduced Luke Grounds for Marco Rosano at the break with grounds going into the centre of the defence and Craig Sweeney going to right back. Sunshine began the second half better having the majority of the play.

There was very little goal mouth action, but the battle in midfield was hotly contested that kept the referee busy issuing yellow cards. After 68 minutes Jean Debois was red carded for a second bookable offence and on his way out he indicated he has had enough of Victorian football. This was his second dismissal in the last month after a spate of cautions. The Georgies had lots of possession, but ran out of ideas going forward.

Melbounre Knight's goalkeeper Sebastian Mattie was never threatened with the Knights defenders coping with ease any Sunshine attack. Mattie was spared his blushes when he tried to stop an Andrew Nabbout shot with his foot, allowing the ball to go under his foot, just past the upright for a corner kick. Kevin Townson looked very menacing playing a one man attack with the Knight's ploy of counter attacking looking more likely to produce a Knight's goal.

The Knights were able to hang on for a much needed win in a weekend that saw the bottom teams closing the gap on the teams above as the battle to escape relegation intensifies. In round 15 the Knights are at home on Sunday against Hume City, while the Georgies travel to Cheltenham to face Bentleigh Greens on Friday night at Kingston Heath.



Melbourne Knights' Danny Tiatto puts in a strong challenge for the ball. PHOTO:STEVE STAREK



Jean Charles Dubois scores for the Knights, before putting himself in the bad books latter on in the match and getting sent off.. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

A soccer game in progress. A goalkeeper in a grey jersey is diving to the right to catch a ball. Several players in green and blue jerseys are positioned in front of the goal. The background shows a green net and a white banner with green text.

 VPL 2010 | Round 13 | Errea Scoreboard

VPL Round 15

Bentleigh Greens	13	5	3	7	22	24	13	Altona Magic 0
Green Gully Cavaliers	14	5	2	7	21	38	17	Sunshine George Cross 0
Altona Magic	14	4	3	7	14	25	15	
Sunshine George Cross	14	4	1	9	20	37	13	



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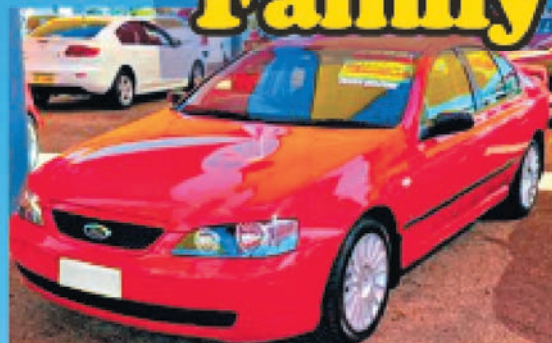
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